

National Framework Consultation

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact Rod Hammerton
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1 Purpose of Report

This report provides the Strategy and Resources Committee with the opportunity to consider and amend the draft response from the Authority to the National Framework consultation prior to submission for endorsement to the full Fire Authority on 14 February 2018. This will allow the Authority to meet the deadline for the consultation on that day.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider and make recommendations to the Fire Authority on the draft response to the National Framework Consultation.

3 Background

Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Fire and Rescue National Framework which sets priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) in England in connection with the discharge of their functions. FRAs have a statutory duty to have regard to the Framework. The 2004 Act requires the Secretary of State to keep the Framework under review and revise it, if needed, with significant revisions subject to statutory consultation with representatives of fire and rescue authorities and their employees.

The National Framework was last updated in 2012 and changes are needed which warrant a full revision of it at this time to embed the fire reform programme such as the creation of a new inspectorate for fire and rescue services and the creation of the National Fire Chiefs Council. The Framework also reflects the provisions in the Policing and Crime Act 2017 on emergency services collaboration and changes to fire and rescue governance.

Every fire and rescue authority must have regard to the Framework in carrying out their functions. Every authority must publish an annual statement of assurance of compliance with the Framework.

In preparing the Framework, the Secretary of State is required to consult fire and rescue authorities or their representatives; persons representing employees of fire and rescue authorities; and any other persons they consider appropriate.

A full copy of the consultation document was sent to Members on 10 January 18 with an apology for the short timescale and a request for comments by 18 January 2018. This timescale was to ensure consideration of the Authority's reply could be made at the Strategy and Resources Committee and a recommendation made to the Full Fire Authority meeting on 14 February 2018 – which is the deadline for submission.

The feedback from members and comments from officers has been used to compile the draft response which is attached as an appendix.

4 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5 Legal Comment

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6 Initial Impact Assessment

The initial impact assessment indicates that consideration needs to be given to the eventual impact of the new Framework Document as it is published. There are no new policies within the draft Framework document but it does indicate that the current government direction for Fire will be sustained and as such must be incorporated into SFRS strategy.

7 Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report. An e-EQIA is not, therefore, required.

8 Appendix

Proposed SWFRA National Framework Consultation Response

9 Background Papers

The full copy of the consultation document can be accessed from the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672148/171222_National_Framework_consultation_document_-_v2.pdf