

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION

MONDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2023

1. CRMP CONSULTATION OUTCOMES 2023

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1. THAT Members note the content of this report.
- 1.2. THAT members consider providing feedback and suggestions in relation to how we could further improve collaboration and engagement for future consultations.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 2.1 This report is submitted to provide an overview to the Collaboration and Transformation Committee in relation to the recent Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) consultation.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Total number of responses:

Total Responses	
Public	4,786
Partners	139
Staff	726
TOTAL	5,651

- 3.2 Engagement took place at the start of the consultation, to ensure all partners knew when the consultation was live, how long it was open for and how to respond. Engagement continued throughout the consultation period to encourage wider partner agency responses, including targeting those we had not received a

response. Partners who have responded to the consultation are listed below:

- West Midlands Police
- West Midlands Ambulance Service
- West Midlands Combined Authority
- Local Authorities, including responses from:
 - Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC)
 - City of Wolverhampton Council
 - Birmingham City Council
 - Dudley MBC
 - Coventry City Council
 - Walsall Council
 - Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- Fire sector
 - Warwickshire FRS
 - National Association of Retired Firefighters
- NHS
 - Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
 - Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
 - A number of individual NHS respondents
- Transport for West Midlands
- Residential care home providers
- Voluntary/charity organisations:
 - A.C.C.I. (African Caribbean Community Initiative)
 - The Air Ambulance Service
 - Birmingham Christmas Shelter
 - Neighbourhood Watch
 - NHS Volunteer
 - British Red Cross volunteer
 - The James Charities, Nechells
 - Warwickshire Search and Rescue

- Other individual volunteers
- Education establishments:
 - Halesowen College
 - Newman University
 - Heart of England School
 - The Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton
 - Nova Training
- Religious Establishments:
 - Christ Church Blakenall and St Chad's Beechdale churches
 - Shree Birmingham Pragati Mandal (Shree Krishna Temple)
- Other
 - Community, Courts and Probation
- National Association of Retired Firefighters.

3.3 Engagement was positive and consultation was supported by a wide range of valuable stakeholders. There was a consistent level of response across all consultation themes from partners, including Prevention, Protection, Response, People and Sustainability.

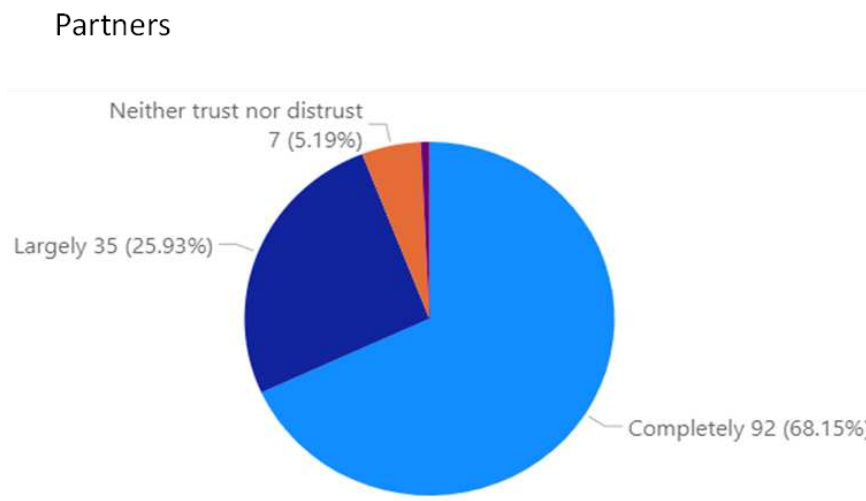
3.4 Of the stakeholders that were targeted, we did not receive submissions from the below:

- Home Office
- Fire Minister/Shadow Fire Minister
- British Transport Police
- Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
- Network Rail
- Highways England
- Birmingham Airport
- Environment Agency
- UK Health Security Agency
- Met Office
- Utility providers

- 3.5 We have not had a separate submission from representative bodies however, we have received 726 responses from staff.
- 3.6 We received one response from another fire and rescue service (FRS) – this was submitted by Warwickshire FRS. We did not receive responses from any other regional or national FRS.
- 3.7 Members are encouraged to provide feedback, considerations and suggestions in relation to how we could further improve collaboration and engagement for future consultations. A full debrief is due to take place in November this will consider public, staff and partner engagement.

3.8 **Overview of Partner Responses**

- 3.8.1 It was positive to find most partners said they either completely or largely trust West Midlands Fire Service, as shown in the chart below.



- 3.8.2 When asked about preparedness to disruptive events, overall, partners feel the most prepared for disruptive events out of staff, public and partners.
- 3.8.3 When asked about barriers to recruitment, of those who think there are barriers, the most common answers across each group are detailed in the table below.

	Most common barriers selected
Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception of the role of a firefighter • Never thought about joining the fire service • Disabilities or health concerns • Exposure to harm or trauma
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perception of the role of a firefighter • Lack of information about the role • Shift work • Disabilities or health concerns/exposure to harm and trauma
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salary and benefits • Perception of the role of a firefighter • Cultural/religious barriers • Shift work

3.8.4 When asked about sustainability, of the 10 sustainability options listed, the public, partners and staff all chose the same top five future uses of a community fire station (although in slightly different orders). The table below shows where the top five options were placed by each group.

	Public	Partner	Staff
Access to life-saving equipment	1 st	1 st	1 st
A base for multiple emergency services	2 nd	2 nd	5 th
Safety information and education	3 rd	5 th	3 rd
Emergency relief/rest centre	4 th	3 rd	4 th
Safe havens	5 th	4 th	2 nd

3.8.5 When asked how we should prioritise a number of sustainability factors, the most common factors ranked first include - honesty, integrity and ethical behaviour as well as how we prepare for the future scale and frequency of climate-related emergencies.

3.8.6 The below table shows the average position per group for each factor.

	Public	Partner	Staff
Honesty integrity and ethical behaviour	2	2	2
How to prepare for future scale and frequency of climate-related emergencies	1	3	3
Promote well-being for our communities and staff	3	1	1
Help communities make more sustainable decisions	4	4	4
Achieve net zero sooner rather than later	5	5	5

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing the CRMP consultation a full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

5. **DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing the CRMP consultation a full Data Protection Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The consultation proposed in this paper meets the Authority's requirements under the National Fire and Rescue Framework for England 2012.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications to the approval of recommendations in this report.

8. **SUSTAINABILITY (ENVIRONMENTAL) IMPLICATIONS**

In preparing the CRMP consultation, a full Sustainability Impact Assessment has been undertaken

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- [State of Fire and Rescue: The Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England 2019](#)
- [The NFCC, National Employers \(England\) and LGA 'Fit for the Future' report 2020](#)
- [Community Risk Management Planning Fire Standard](#)
- [HMICFRS Inspection Report](#)
- [Independent Culture Review | London Fire Brigade](#)
- [Views and culture in fire and rescue services](#)

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