

**REPORT TO:** Safer Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 14 November 2023

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive,  
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service

**PORTFOLIO:** Community Safety

**SUBJECT:** Cheshire Fire Authority Draft 2024-2028  
Community Risk Management Plan

**WARD(S)** Borough wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service is attending to provide a presentation explaining the proposed changes to fire and rescue provision across Cheshire resulting from Cheshire Fire Authority's draft 2024-2028 Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP).

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION:** That the presentation is received.

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Fire and rescue authorities are required to produce a CRMP, which must identify key fire and rescue risks and how they will be addressed. Cheshire Fire Authority is currently consulting on its draft 2024-2028 CRMP, which outlines a series of proposals to achieve its vision of a Cheshire where there are no deaths, injuries or damage from fires and other emergencies.

Through the life of the plan, the draft CRMP aims to deliver more fire prevention and protection activities to reduce risk in the community and proposes several changes to the way in which emergency cover is provided in order to provide a better response across Cheshire. Proposals are detailed below:

**Prevention**

- Implementing the outcomes of a review into the Prevention function.
- Refining the Authority's Safe and Well targeting methodology to meet the needs of those most at risk.
- Increasing the number of Safe and Well visits in the community through the life of the CRMP.

- Working with partners to improve the quality of referrals to support the most vulnerable.
- Reducing the occurrence of deliberate fires and explore arrangements with Cheshire Police to support this.
- Implementing a new Road Safety Strategic Plan with partners.
- Including bespoke advice around lithium-ion batteries within home safety visits.

### **Protection**

- Reviewing the Protection department and its Risk Based Inspection Programme to ensure it remains efficient and effective.
- Reviewing the Authority's primary authority responsibilities to ensure they are effective and self-funding.
- Ensuring Protection activities align to the outcomes of the Building Safety Review.
- Upskilling operational managers with protection qualifications to enhance Firefighter safety and allow for more effective inspection of non-domestic premises.
- Continuing to lobby and campaign for the installation of sprinklers in the built environment.

### **Response**

- Changing the way the Authority measures and reports its response times.
- Changing four on-call fire engines into full-time weekday fire engines/
- Introducing a day crewing system at Knutsford Fire Station.
- Reorganising daytime fire cover in Warrington.

Further details on the draft CRMP and more information on the consultation can be found at [www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk)

## **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- Building Safety Act 2022

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None to report.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **6.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

The draft CRMP outlines proposals to mitigate risks covering all age groups. In particular, the proposed increase in the number of guaranteed fire engines during weekday daytime hours creates more capacity to engage with children and young people through Key Stage 2 school visits; in addition to existing youth engagement provision such as The Prince's Trust Team, RESPECT, On the Streets programmes, and hosting of fire cadet units on fire stations.

**6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None to report.

**6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The draft CRMP proposes to create capacity to increase the delivery of Safe and Well visits across Cheshire. These visits also provide individuals with health signposting and information, which can lead to positive health outcomes in the community. Proposed changes to the Authority's fire prevention activity are aimed at improving how the Authority and other partners work together to support the most vulnerable in society, including improving health outcomes.

**6.4 A Safer Halton**

The draft CRMP proposes to improve the provision of fire cover across Cheshire and create capacity to increase fire prevention and protection work in the community; reducing risk and creating safer neighbourhoods.

**6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The Authority's ambition to increase its community fire protection work and the increase in capacity to undertake site specific risk inspections and other safety inspections aims to reduce the risk of fire within non-domestic premises, thereby contributing to a safer built environment.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

None to report.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

None to report.

**9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

None to report.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF  
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.