

## Report of the Chief Fire Officer

### Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2025-2030

#### Purpose of report

1. To provide the Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority (FRA) the opportunity to scrutinise the amendments made to the draft CRMP 2025-30 following the period of public consultation.
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#### Recommendation

***It is recommended that the final version of the CRMP 2025-2030, incorporating the changes suggested during the consultation process, be agreed and approved. In particular it be noted that additional sections in the main CRMP have been added following consultation:***

- i. our response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiries.***
- ii. our preparedness for a pandemic.***
- iii. our role in the Local Resilience Forum.***

#### Introduction and Background

2. Opinion Research Services (ORS) was commissioned by HWFRS, under the governance of the FRA to undertake a public consultation to gather the views of local residents, staff, and other stakeholders on HWFRS's draft CRMP 2025-30. The formal public consultation was undertaken between 13 January and 7 April 2025.
3. The responses were gathered through an open consultation questionnaire, and two in-person focus groups with seldom heard residents (one with residents in very rural areas and one with people with learning disabilities). HWFRS also received two written submissions: one from the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) and one from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for West Mercia.

#### Summary of Main Findings

4. A separate paper provides a breakdown of the consultation responses but, broadly speaking, the public largely agreed that the draft CRMP identified all foreseeable Fire and Rescue related risks. In addition, the majority of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the methodologies used to identify and assess those risks.

5. Questionnaire respondents were also asked if they felt there were any areas that had not been covered in the draft CRMP. While generally agreeing that most risks were covered, suggestions around other possible areas included pandemic threat and response and unsafe cladding on residential buildings with particular reference to the Grenfell Tower Inquiries.
6. The PCC's written submission was praising of the approach the Service are taking towards road safety and described the draft CRMP as a "*clear, well-evidenced and up-to-date assessment of the fire and rescue-related risks facing communities across Hereford and Worcester*".
7. The Fire Brigades Union's (FBU) written submission made multiple recommendations which were all considered in detail.
8. Whilst many of these areas are referenced in the supporting research documents, HWFRS has undertaken to include additional sections in the main CRMP (Appendix 1) on our response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiries and our preparedness for a pandemic. HWFRS has also ensured that our role in the LRF is referenced clearly in relevant areas of the main document.
9. There have also been various minor amendments such as typing corrections and minor statistical discrepancies.
10. Pending approval of the Fire Authority, the CRMP will be hosted on our website and set the future strategic direction for the next five years.

### **Impact of Changing Resources Since Consultation**

11. Since publication of the draft CRMP for consultation, the financial landscape has changed significantly for the Authority. As previously reported, to the Policy, Resources and Scrutiny Committee on 09 July 2025, plans have been set out to address the financial challenges faced during 2025/2026 and 2026/2027, and there may be future financial challenges up to 2030 in the government's current funding review of English Fire Services.
12. With that in mind, it should be noted that the plans set out in the CRMP can only be delivered subject to available resources. The ambition initially envisaged when the CRMP 2025-30 was drafted and consulted upon may now need to be curtailed and whilst all areas will still be progressed the pace, depth and breadth of change in these areas may no longer be achievable. This will be addressed in any subsequent annual action plans should the strategic document be approved at this meeting.

### **Conclusion/Summary**

13. To gather the views of residents, staff and other stakeholders on HWFRS's draft CRMP 2025-30, a formal consultation was undertaken between 13 January and 7 April 2025.

14. After careful consideration of all feedback, HWFRS has undertaken to include additional sections in the main CRMP on our response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiries and our preparedness for a pandemic. HWFRS has also ensured that our role in the LRF is referenced clearly in relevant areas of the main document.

### Corporate Considerations

<p><b>Resource Implications</b> (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)</p>	<p>There have been no resource implications in amending the CRMP.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Policy Links &amp; Core Code of Ethics</b> (identify how proposals link with current priorities &amp; policy framework and align to the Core Code of Ethics)</p>	<p>The CRMP and, by association, the public consultation, spans all core and enabling strategies. These will be reviewed in-line with the objectives set out in the CRMP.</p>
<p><b>Productivity &amp; Efficiency</b> (Identify how proposal improves productivity or efficiency)</p>	<p>Thorough community risk management planning ensures the most effective and efficient use of the Service's resources. The Service objectives all facilitate the most productive delivery of the Service KPIs.</p>
<p><b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).</p>	<p>The CRMP is in essence, a risk management plan. It covers all foreseeable risks throughout our communities and sets out our high-level plans and how we intend to allocate our resources to mitigate them.</p>
<p><b>Consultation</b> (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)</p>	<p>These amendments have been made as a direct response to feedback from the formal public consultation</p>
<p><b>Equalities</b> (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)</p>	<p>An extensive EIA was produced alongside the development of the CRMP and can be found in the supporting documents bundle.</p>
<p><b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b> (where personal data is processed a DPIA must be completed to ensure compliant handling)</p>	<p>No personal data is processed in the consultation report.</p>

### Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – A Summary of Our Community Risk Management Plan 2025-30

Appendix 2 – Community Risk Management Plan 2025-30