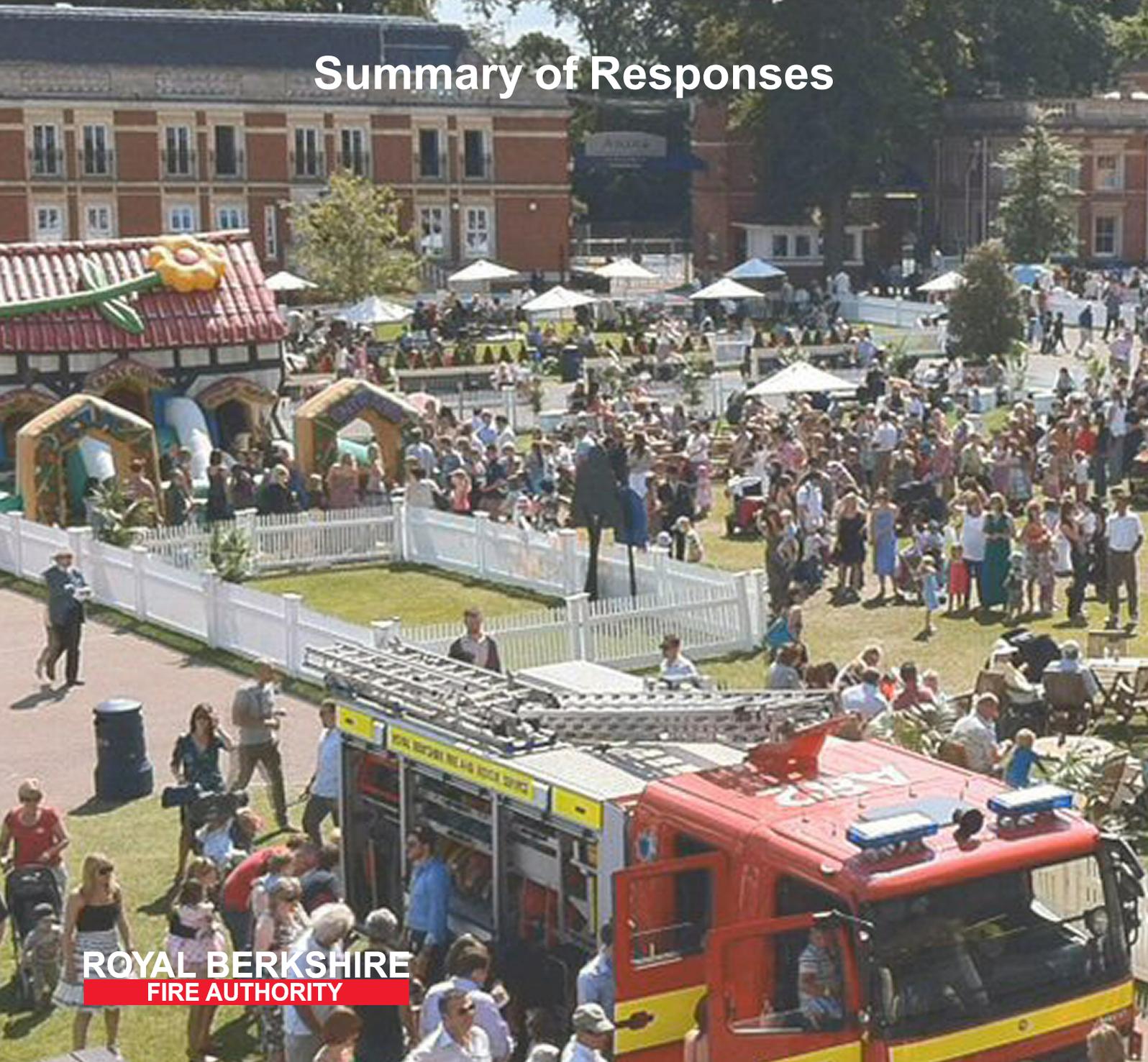


FIVE YEAR INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010/11 - 2015/16

Action Plan 2012/13 - Consultation

Summary of Responses



**ROYAL BERKSHIRE
FIRE AUTHORITY**

PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

Annual Action Plan: 2012/13 - Summary of Responses

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यदि आप यह जानकारी हिन्दी में चाहते हैं तो कृपया हमारा संपर्क करें
જો તમને આ માહિતી ગુજરાતી માં જોઈતી હોય તો મહેરબानी કરી અમારો સંપર્ક કરો
Jeśli wymagasz tej informacji po POLSKU, proszę się z nami skontaktować
ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ
اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات اردو میں درکار ہوں، تو ہم سے رابطہ کیجئے

Summary

On 28 September 2011 Royal Berkshire Fire Authority approved the IRMP 2012/13 Action Plan document for public consultation. The consultation period ran from 3 October 2011 to 3 January 2012. To publicise and assist with the consultation process, the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) initially circulated 971 copies of the IRMP Action Plan 2012/13. These were sent to various individuals, groups and places where the public have access; including key stakeholders (e.g. Councillors, Local Education Authorities and Unitary Authorities), Post Offices, Community Centres and Libraries.

Key briefings were held for all members of staff, a Community Engagement Forum was held on 3 December 2011 and copies of the consultation document were made publicly available via the website and internal intranet.

A total of 124 responses were received with 97 of these being in response to the specific proposals for Windsor Fire Station.

The consultation responses have been brought to the attention of the Fire Authority's Integrated Risk Management Working Party (4 January 2012), The Fire Authority Management Committee (23 January 2012) and the full Fire Authority on 15 February 2012.

Following the consultation responses two amendments have been made to the document to reflect ongoing work and received opinion.

Background

The Fire & Rescue Service National Framework 2008-11 states:

“Each Fire and Rescue Authority must produce a publicly available IRMP covering at least a three-year time span, which [amongst other things] reflects effective consultation during its development and at all review stages with representatives of all sections of the community and stakeholders.” Consultation guidance for the Fire & Rescue Service is contained within IRMP guidance note 2, published at the inception of the IRMP process.

As part of the overarching 5 year 2010/11 – 2015/16 Integrated Risk Management Plan for Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, Annual Action Plans are produced between May and September for the following year. Once these documents have been approved by the Fire Authority, full public consultation is undertaken in accordance with recommended best practice generally between October and January.

Outcome of Consultation

Responses

A total of 124 responses were received from Private Individuals, Representative Bodies and another Fire and Rescue Service. Appropriate representative responses are detailed below.

Type of Organisation	No of Responses
Fire and Rescue Service	1
Parish Council	4
Representative Bodies	5
Private Individuals	12
Employees	7
RBWM Liberal Democrat pro formas	81
Unidentified responses/Illegible/No comments	14

Review Of Specialist Appliances

The Service has a number of specialist fire appliances that are used to support emergency incidents. Appliances are replaced due to wear and tear, the limited availability of spare parts to keep the vehicle in a good state of readiness for emergencies and due to technological enhancements.

During 2012/13 it is proposed the Service will undertake a detailed review of the provision and use of a number of specialist vehicles before they are due for replacement, to determine if any improvements or developments are needed and also whether a similar unit is required at all. The review will incorporate crewing arrangements, location, use and any alternative provision.

The following appliances are due for review:

Water Rescue Unit And Boat

With increasing adverse weather events, it is planned to review the Service's response to flooding and other specialist rescues to assess the needs of both the Service and communities of Berkshire, to ensure the water, mud and ice rescue provision is suitable and sufficient. A multi disciplined project team will be formed to assess the requirements.

Operational Support Unit

The Service has two Operational Support Units (curtain sided vehicles with multiple stowage pods for a range of different equipment to assist firefighters dealing with emergencies) and one is due for replacement in 2013. A project team will be formed to review the current provision to ensure it is fit for purpose and offers the best possible service within established constraints.

Aerial Ladder Platform (high reach appliance) At Slough

There are two appliances with this capability within the Berkshire area, one at Whitley Wood, Reading, the other at Slough Fire Station.

With the advent of better fire precautions within buildings and early fire detection, the emergency use of these vehicles has decreased over time, although they are still required during operational incidents. The continued provision and use of these appliances will be reviewed.

Responses:

If it is proposed to carry out the reviews during 2012/13 why is it that some of the reviews have already started and must be completed by April 2012?

(FBU)

We urge the Authority to include within this review the crewing methods.

(FBU)

We look forward to further engagement on this project....for mutual assistance arrangements.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

I support the review of the Aerial Appliances and believe that RBFRS only needs one.

Employee

We are disappointed at the transfer of the Rescue Support Vehicle from Newbury.

Thatcham Town Council

Control Collaboration Options

The project team will continue to assess the options for the provision of a call management, mobilising and emergency resource management function in partnership with other agencies and fire and rescue services.

Response:

We welcome this approach as a valued partner.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Replacement For Dee Road Fire Station

A premises condition survey has identified the fire station at Dee Road, Reading needs to have significant building works or be rebuilt. Before rebuilding on the same site a review has been undertaken and identified the optimum location is westwards of the existing site toward the Calcot / Theale area.

As the fire station is in a poor state of repair and it is not in the optimum location to provide a response to emergencies, the Service will incorporate the provision of a new fire station to the west of Reading within its premises strategy. Subject to identifying a suitable site, the fire station at Dee Road will be replaced.

Responses:

The FBU urges the Authority to consider locating the new fire station within the new headquarters complex.

(FBU)

We are pleased to note that you are planning to provide a new fire station in the Theale / Calcot area.

Theale Parish Council

I fully support the concept of a new fire station being built at Theale and it will be a great asset.
Employee



Windsor Fire Station

The new fire station in Wokingham is now completed and is open 24 hours a day. As referenced in the 2011/12 plan, officers from both the Service and Windsor and Maidenhead have continued discussions to identify alternative options to provide emergency cover within Windsor on a 24 hour basis.

Agreement in principle has been reached and it is proposed to provide a local fire engine based in the Windsor area, which will be crewed by 3 fire-fighters. The vehicle will be a local fire engine, which will respond to all calls in the Windsor area and be supported by other fire engines as required. On occasions, e.g. forest fires, during snowy weather etc, it will be necessary for the vehicle and crew to be used in other areas of Berkshire.

A new fire station will be provided in the Windsor area, by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Following this agreement work is now underway by officers from both authorities to enable implementation of this proposal, with the arrangements being reviewed after one year, with no presumption of change, unless mutually agreed.

Responses:

A survey by the RBWM Liberal Democrats generated 81 responses to the consultation with 97 comments received in total. The survey gave two options of a 'daytime only' service or the proposed Local Fire Engine available 24hrs a day. Of the 81 responses 73 were in favour of day cover only.

The proposed 'mini engine' is totally inadequate.

Windsor resident

Is it true that you are going to use Maidenhead Fire Station to cover Windsor instead of Slough?

Windsor resident

'No' to the loss of a service in Windsor.

Windsor resident

Slough crews will not be able to travel along the relief road due to blockages caused by Legoland and Windsor Racecourse.

Windsor resident

A 3 person crew is inadequate.

Windsor resident

Don't see why we need a permanent fire engine when Slough is only 3 miles away.

Windsor resident

Road Traffic Collisions

As road traffic collisions occur throughout the world, every fire and rescue service needs to provide some form of emergency response to these incidents. Over many years this Service has had a team who compete on a national and international basis in competitions where road traffic collisions are simulated and they rescue the casualty. A wide range of scenarios face the competing teams and it is an ideal environment to learn new techniques.

In 2011 Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service won the United Kingdom and World Extrication Championships. It is proposed to assess ways in which the expertise gained by the team can be disseminated to other firefighters and also to consider ways in which team members can be used at the more difficult entrapments.

No relevant comments received.

Wildfire/Forest Fires

In May 2011 the Service attended a significant fire at Swinley Forest for seven days. This incident resulted in over 1,000 fire engine movements, and, at its peak, involved over 50 fire engines and specialist vehicles and more than 400 personnel from across the country.

The debrief process is nearing completion and this will result in a number of recommendations for consideration. Once the recommendations are approved a project team (or teams) will be formed to address the issues.

No relevant comments received

MAKING BERKSHIRE SAFER

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Responses

Specialist Vehicles

Due to the specialised nature of these vehicles it is necessary to begin the review project at least two years in advance of their anticipated replacement.

Over the last two years we have invested significantly in the specialist cutting equipment carried on our front line appliances. This considerable investment and upgrade has negated the use of the more specialist vehicles for the vast majority of Road Traffic Collisions.

As a result of these upgrades, and, after considering the consultation responses, the Heavy Rescue Unit (HRU) at Newbury Fire Station will be transferred to the fire station in Dee Road, Reading where it will be 'switch crewed' with the pumping appliance. The Rescue Support Vehicle at Slough Fire Station will be retired from service when the HRU is moved to a more central location.

The Aerial Appliance project has commenced now that consultation responses have been received. As with all specialist appliance reviews, crewing methods will be considered.

Control Collaboration Options

This project has commenced and has already established that the preferred way forward is a joint Control facility with Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. It is expected that this will offer significant improvements in operational performance, resilience, efficiency and further opportunities in the future for sharing of resources.

Replacement For Dee Road

A project team has been formed and initial work has commenced to find a suitable site within the Theale area for a new fire station to replace Dee Road. The existing fire station will not be closed until the new one is operational.

Windsor Fire Station

The Windsor Fire Station project has been running for over four years now and this latest proposal is as a result of negotiations with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Following consultation responses and ongoing discussions the Service is reviewing the proposals for the Local Fire Engine and work is progressing towards achieving alternative proposals. Current practice within the Service is to crew fire engines with a minimum of four firefighters. However as the fire engine may be crewed by three firefighters, it will be necessary to establish policy and procedures applicable to the number of personnel.

Officers of the Service have therefore been tasked with examining crewing options on a cost neutral basis, taking account of the broader implications of such options across the Service area. It is anticipated that once this work has produced options, a further public consultation exercise will be undertaken focused on the Royal Borough area.

Road Traffic Collisions

No relevant comments were received as part of the consultation process and accordingly the project will commence in 2012/13 as planned.

Wildfire / Forest fires

Once the final report is released an assessment will be conducted to ascertain the correct way forward for Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service and partner agencies. The final report will be made publicly available for information. Work will continue within the South East region to identify opportunities for collaborative progress.

List of Respondents

RBWM Liberal Democrat forms - private individual responses - 81
Old Windsor Residents Association
Councillors: Jones, Fussey, Beer, Newbound - RBWM
Old Windsor Parish Council
Sulhamstead Parish Council
Thatcham Town Council
Mr Garvie - Newbury Labour Party
Theale Parish Council
Arborfield and Newland Parish Council
Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
RBFRS Employees (7)
Private Individuals (12)
Fire Brigades Union

ROYAL BERKSHIRE
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