

# COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-30

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



**For Approval**

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Elected Members of the outcomes from the consultation exercise on the draft Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2026-30 as set out in the Consultation Findings Report (CFR) attached as Appendix 2.
- 1.2 To consider the Authority's updated medium term financial position.
- 1.3 To approve a final CRMP 2026-30 that reflect the Authority's current risk assessment outcomes, the outcomes from the consultation exercise and the updated medium term financial position, as recommended by the Executive Committee on 6 March 2026.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members note the details of the consultation exercises in relation to the Authority's draft CRMP proposals 2026-30 as set out in Sections 5 and 6 of this report and in the Consultation Findings Report at Appendix 2.
- 2.2 It is recommended that Members note the updated medium term financial position, the continued uncertainty in future funding which was set out in full in the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27-2028/29 that was approved by the Fire Authority on 13 February 2026.
- 2.3 It is recommended that, in light of the Authority's comprehensive risk assessments, financial position and consultation exercise, Members approve the CRMP 2026-30 as attached at Appendix 1 for publication and implementation on 1 April 2026.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The requirement for a CRMP and Strategic Assessment of Risk (SAOR) (previously known as the Integrated Risk Management Plan) is set out in the Home Office Fire and Rescue Service National framework for England, May 2018. This is given statutory effect by the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.
- 3.2 Fire and rescue authorities are also required to complete an annual Statement of Assurance on financial, governance and operational matters as set out in the Department for Communities and Local Government guidance of May 2018.

- 3.3 The Home Office Fire and Rescue Service National framework states that each Fire and Rescue Authority must produce a SAOR that must:
- reflect up to date risk analyses including an assessment of all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the area of the authority.
  - demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to prevent fires and other incidents and mitigate the impact of identified risks on its communities, through authorities working either individually or collectively, in a way that makes best use of available resources.
  - outline required service delivery outcomes including the allocation of resources for the mitigation of risks.
  - set out its management strategy and risk-based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in accordance with the principles of better regulation set out in the Statutory Code of Compliance for Regulators, and the Enforcement Concordat.
  - cover at least a three-year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as it is necessary to ensure that the authority is able to deliver the requirements set out in this Framework.
  - reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners; and
  - be easily accessible and publicly available.
- 3.4 A strategic assessment of risk is about using resources in the most effective and efficient way to save lives, improve public safety and reduce emergency incidents. It is an approach that:
- identifies who or what is most at risk of fire and other emergencies.
  - determines where they are and how best to reach them.
  - identifies the best way to reduce and manage the risk.
  - ensures that resources are deployed in proportion to the size of the risk.
- 3.5 There is a National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Fire Standard for CRMP's (last issued 8 October 2025) which dictate a desired outcome. The current and draft CRMP have been designed to achieve these outcomes.
- 3.6 The Authority's current Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26, which incorporates the Authority's Corporate and Integrated Risk Management Plans (now known as Strategic Assessment of Risk), expires on 31 March 2026.
- 3.7 The Service Plan for 2025/26 set out six strategic planning priorities for the Chief Fire Officer. This plan brought all key priorities, goals, and objectives from a number of strategic plans together in one place to ensure they are clear, focused, and achievable:
- People
  - Prevention
  - Protection
  - Response
  - Resources
  - Strategic Planning

- 3.8 The consultation work is now complete, and the outcomes are presented to Members within this report for approval.

#### **4. DRAFT CRMP 2026-30**

- 4.1 The draft CRMP 2026-30, attached as Appendix 1, has been developed on the basis that the Authority continues to comply with its statutory duties and works towards achieving its purpose “Protecting People, Places and Futures.
- 4.2 The CRMP took cognisance of the Authority’s uncertain financial situation at the time of writing. Since that time, the Authority has received a three-year financial settlement for 2026/27 – 2028/29 which was reflected in the Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by the Fire Authority on 13 February 2026.
- 4.3 The CRMP sets out our risk management proposals for the next four years which will direct our work activities and resources and is underpinned by a suite of 'SMART' improvement actions that have been established through our learning and insight.

#### **5. CRMP 2026-30 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Full details of the Authority’s consultation exercise are set out in the Consultation Finding Report (CFR) attached at Appendix 2.
- 5.2 An evidence gathering and pre-consultation exercise was conducted over a period of four weeks in June 2025, following which 1,125 responses were received.
- 5.3 Following this a comprehensive formal public consultation exercise was undertaken between 15 September and 7 December 2025, resulting in a further 1,944 responses. The consultation followed the Government’s Consultation Principles 2016, to be proportionate, targeted, and placed emphasis on ensuring that consultees understood the effects of the proposals. Details of the consultation and engagement can be found from page 22 of the CRMP.
- 5.3 The aim of the consultation was to:
- Comply with legal requirements to consult with stakeholders.
  - Gauge community perceptions of the proposed priorities.
  - Ensure transparency and accountability in decision making.
- 5.4 The objectives of the consultation were to:
- explain the Fire Authority’s risk assessment process.
  - outline the outcomes of the Authority’s risk assessment process.
  - provide details of the proposals set out in the draft CRMP.
  - state the anticipated timescales for decision/implementation.
  - state how to contact the Service to voice opinion.
  - state how the Service will respond to opinions received.

5.5 The stakeholders invited and involved in the consultation programme are set out below:

- Members of the Public
- Community Groups
- Industrial and Commercial Businesses
- Representative Bodies: Fire Brigades' Union and Unison
- Members of Parliament in Teesside
- Chief Executives and Leaders of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Councils
- Tees Valley Combined Authority
- Tees Valley Mayor
- Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
- Cleveland Police: Chief Constable
- Professional Associations
- Third Sector Organisations
- Other Partners: Health, Safeguarding Boards, Ambulance
- Media
- All Fire and Rescue Authorities in the United Kingdom
- Other Emergency Services

5.6 A wide variety of communication methods and tools were used to encourage staff, members of the public and other stakeholders to engage in the consultation process. These included:

- development and agreement of the proposals through the Authority's governance arrangements
- early engagement with representative bodies prior to launch
- wide circulation of the draft plan to stakeholders via links to the Brigade's website
- social media messaging to encourage participation through various channels.
- consultation materials published on the intranet and the external website, informing all stakeholders and communities of the methodology of feeding back to the Authority through the Communications and Engagement Team

## **6. CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

6.1 Full details of the responses to consultation are set out in Consultation Findings Report (Appendix 1).

6.2 Activities delivered in the engagement timetable resulted in the awareness of this consultation reaching 256,990 people. Engagement is all about capturing the audience's attention to get them to act by liking, commenting, sharing, responding and in this case completing the consultation survey. A total of 19,094 people engaged with us during the consultation period.

6.3 Our survey was comprehensive and required pre-reading of documentation to complete. A total of 1,944 full survey submissions were received over the twelve-week consultation period.

**7. CONSULTATION ASSURANCE**

- 7.1 The consultation exercise was sufficiently extensive so as to enable any person or organisation, which may have had a legitimate interest in the Authority's proposals or may have been affected by those proposals, to express their views.
- 7.2 The scope of the consultation was proportionate to the nature and extent of the changes proposed and did not disadvantage any group or community served by the Authority. This was reinforced by the completion of an Equality Impact Assessment, available at Appendix 3.
- 7.3 Arrangements were in place to ensure that the CRMP document and consultation was available in a range of languages and formats should it be required.
- 7.4 The consultation exercise was based around a comprehensive engagement Plan which provided sufficient information to all consultees to allow them to make informed decisions. The plan selected the most appropriate methods and tools for consultation and ensured that the proposal subject matter was put into local context to improve understanding.
- 7.5 The Risk and Performance Team has conducted an independent and impartial statistical and qualitative analysis of the outcomes of the consultation from the information. Access to the relevant datasets is available for audit and a clear audit trail between this data and the analysis provided is available. Named individuals' details in the data would be redacted for data protection purposes.
- 7.6 A detailed analysis of the consultations responses against the EDI characteristics has been provided from the EDI information received.
- 7.7 Any data received after 7 December 2025 (closing date for consultation) has been excluded from the analysis.

**8. PROPOSED CHANGES TO DRAFT CRMP PROPOSALS 2026-30**

- 8.1 Reflecting on the current risk assessment outcomes and the outcomes from the consultation exercise it is recommended that no changes are made to the draft CRMP proposals 2026-30.

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