



PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2012-17

**DRAFT FOR
CONSULTATION**



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

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Note: The table on page 23 was revised on Monday 11 July 2011 in response to a request for further information about mobilisations to incidents in neighbouring counties. The original figures included over-the-border incidents at which Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service was in charge. The new figures now also include incidents at which Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service provided over-the-border assistance but did not take charge.

While updating the table, we noticed an error in the previously-published version relating to the total number of false alarms each station was mobilised to. This has now been corrected and we would like to apologise for the original oversight.

1 Executive Summary

1.1 The 2012-17 Public Safety Plan sets out our strategic approach to managing risk in the community at a time when we face:

- Increasing pressure on the service that we provide due to the impact of demographic changes, in particular an ageing population profile and continued urban growth, particularly in Milton Keynes.
- Significant reductions to our government grant funding (around 25 per cent) following the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review, which means that we will need to find revenue budget savings of £4.8 million by 2014/15.

1.2 The plan proposes to respond to these changes by:

- Continuing to invest in a comprehensive and well-targeted programme of prevention and protection activities to drive down demand for emergency response services.
- Seeking ways of delivering frontline services in a more efficient and economical way to complement measures already being taken to reduce management and administrative costs.

Planning principles and assumptions

1.3 Assuming the expected reduction in government grant funding of 25 per cent outlined in the Comprehensive Spending Review to 2014/15, the options for consideration within the Public Safety Plan period 2012-17, will be based on the following principles:

- Maintaining the best possible safety provision for the communities we serve and our own staff at all times.
- All proposals to be subject to full risk and impact assessments and data analysis using nationally recognised models.
- No reduction in the number of fire stations.
- No, or minimal, change in attendance time taken by the first appliance to arrive at an incident.
- No, or minimal, impact upon the speed or weight of response.
- Where possible, any staffing changes will be achieved through natural wastage.

- We will explore more flexible or new ways of working.
- We will continue to seek further efficiencies in managerial and support arrangements.
- In particular, the plan proposes a series of reviews that will explore the potential to achieve savings while minimising the impact on the safety of the public and our own staff.

Planning methodology – case by case options impact analysis

1.4 The Public Safety Plan will establish the range of potential reviews that Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority could undertake. Following a formal period of public and staff consultation it is envisaged that Fire Authority will identify those options that are considered to be appropriate for more detailed research and analysis. Each review will be progressed as an individual project comprising research, analysis and appropriate community and staff consultations.

Overview of proposals

1.5 The proposals comprise reviews of:

- Aerial appliance provision and crewing arrangements. An aerial appliance is a vehicle with an extending turntable ladder that enables firefighters to work at heights of up to 32 metres.
- Crewing arrangements at day-crewed fire stations. Day-crewed fire stations are crewed by full-time firefighters between 9am and 6pm, seven days a week, with night cover provided by the same crew on an on-call basis.
- Provision of appliances and crewing arrangements at wholetime fire stations. Wholetime fire stations are crewed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by full-time firefighters.
- Urban Search and Rescue provision and crewing arrangements. Our Urban Search and Rescue staff, equipment and vehicles form part of a national network of bases which help deal with the aftermath of major emergencies such as collapsed buildings, major transportation incidents, natural disasters and terrorist activity.

Consultation

1.6 The public consultation has been scheduled to take place over the 10 weeks from Tuesday 21 June to 9am on Tuesday 30 August 2011.

2 Introduction

2.1 The next few years are likely to be as challenging as any that fire and rescue services have experienced in recent times. Alongside other public services, we face significant reductions in our government funding, estimated at 25 per cent. At the same time we expect to face increasing demand for our services as our population ages and urban areas grow. This means that we need to review all of the services we provide to see how they can be made more efficient and effective.

2.2 We have already begun to introduce measures to reduce our support and management costs, and these efforts will continue. The scale of the savings that will be needed means that we will also need to consider more economical ways of delivering our frontline emergency response services. However, we propose to proceed cautiously with this part of our plan as we need to take great care to minimise the impact of any changes on the safety of the public and our staff. As well as setting out our broad strategic response to these challenges, this plan contains proposals for a number of reviews that will explore opportunities to reduce frontline service delivery costs while seeking to maintain a level of service that is acceptable to the public.

2.3 Despite the very challenging environment, our aspirations for the future remain ambitious and we have established a range of strategic aims and priorities to achieve them. We have made good progress in driving down most types of emergency incident through the work we do to reduce levels of risk in the community, and have seen a reduction in incident volumes of nearly a third compared with 2001. We will aim to sustain this momentum through the life of this plan by ensuring that our scarce resources are effectively deployed, and continuously improving the way that they are targeted relative to risk.

2.4 This plan is for consultation and we encourage the public, our staff and other people with an interest in the services that we provide to let us know their views. Please take time to consider this document and the supporting information we have provided. Details of how to submit your views are shown on page 22. What you tell us is important, and will be taken into account when Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority, our governing body, meets in September to agree on how to proceed.



Mark Jones
Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive
Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service



Councillor David Rowlands
Chairman of Buckinghamshire
& Milton Keynes Fire Authority

3 Our Vision

3.1 Our vision is that:

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes are the safest areas in England in which to live, work and travel.

3.2 To achieve this vision we will engage in activities and partnerships that will contribute to community well-being and promote better levels of safety by:

Prevention – providing education on how to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Protection – enforcing, advocating and campaigning for high standards of safety.

Response – where risk levels remain intolerable, despite our efforts to educate, engineer and eliminate them, providing appropriate high quality response services.

3.3 Our aspiration is to ensure that, by 2020:

- We live and work in the safest part of the country.
- We have no avoidable deaths as a result of fire, and serious injuries are very rare.
- We have supported our partners so that the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads is very low.

4 About Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service

4.1 We serve a diverse area of 724 square miles with a total population of around 750,000, a third of who live in the Milton Keynes Council area. Over the next 10 years significant changes to the size and age structure of the population we serve are expected to occur, as shown in **Table 1** below.

	Buckinghamshire Population		Milton Keynes Population	
	Total	75+	Total	75+
2010	508,250	39,500	240,990	12,190
2020	518,550	52,950	280,580	19,440
Percentage change	+ 2.0	+ 34.0	+ 16.4	+ 59.5

4.2 Of particular significance to us are the overall growth in the size of the population of Milton Keynes and the substantial increase in the proportion of the population aged over 75 years in both areas as these are likely to increase demand for our services.

4.3 We receive around 18,000 emergency calls a year of which about 8,000 are emergency incidents. Currently we respond to these using a fleet of 42 fire and specialist appliances plus four specialised urban search and rescue (USAR) vehicles from a network of 20 fire stations. Of these:

- Six are crewed 24-hours a day, seven days a week (wholetime).
- Four are crewed during the daytime (day-crewed) with the crew providing an on-call service at night;
- 10 are crewed on an on-call basis by firefighters who work for us on part-time contracts and respond to emergencies from their home or place of work (Retained Duty System or RDS).
- Most of our wholetime and day-crewed stations also have part-time RDS complements to provide additional capacity to deal with large and multiple incidents.

4.4 As well as dealing with fires we are also equipped and trained to respond to an extensive range of other emergencies such as road traffic collisions, water rescues, hazardous material releases, explosions, structural collapse, rescues from height and animal rescues.

4.5 We also provide back-up support to neighbouring fire and rescue services, and our Urban Search and Rescue and mass decontamination vehicles, equipment and staff are available to deal with national emergencies such as major environmental incidents, industrial accidents or terrorist attacks.

4.6 In addition to emergency response, we have invested in the development of a range of 'prevention' services designed to reduce the likelihood of emergency incidents occurring in the first place, and 'protection' services to protect people, property and the environment in the event of an incident occurring.

4.7 Our prevention activities include:

- Free home safety checks which are carried out either by our own community safety team and fire crews, or by trained staff from partner agencies. These are available to all on request, but are targeted at people assessed as being more vulnerable to the risk of fire. Home safety checks currently include the fitting of free smoke detectors and the provision of safety information and advice. (*For information on booking a home safety check, see page 2 or the back page of this document*).

- Providing road safety education through campaigns such as the 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' presentations targeted at 16- to 19-year-olds, which we run in conjunction with the police, health and ambulance services.

- Activities designed to discourage anti-social behaviour and fire-related crime, such as youth diversion schemes run in conjunction with other agencies and our own fire-setters programme which works with children and teenagers.

4.8 We also have an extensive programme of protection activities centred on ensuring that owners of public and commercial buildings comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This requires building owners to make sure that appropriate measures are in place to contain the effects of fire and ensure that people can escape safely. Our key protection activities include:

- A risk-based inspection programme that is prioritised in favour of premises that are more likely to carry a significant risk to life in the event of fire, such as hotels and care homes.

- Using our statutory powers to inspect, advise, direct and, when necessary, enforce action to be taken by those responsible for fire safety arrangements where these fail to comply with the legislative requirements.

- Using our statutory powers to give advice and guidance on the management of fire alarm systems in order to reduce the number of unwanted false alarms.

5 How We Plan

5.1 The government requires each fire and rescue authority to produce and consult on a public safety plan on a regular basis. The plan must be based on integrated risk management planning principles.

5.2 In simple terms, integrated risk management planning means:

- Identifying who or what is most at risk of fire and other emergencies.
- Determining where they are and how best to reach them.
- Identifying the best way to reduce and manage the risk.
- Ensuring that our resources are deployed in proportion to the size of the risk.

5.3 We have a range of tools and sources of information that help us to understand the nature and scale of the risks faced by the communities that we serve. These include:

- The **Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC)** toolkit. FSEC is a geographical information system that estimates potential losses in terms of lives lost and property costs based on a particular fire service response to emergencies. It helps us to:
 - Assess the risk of death, injury and other damage arising from different types of emergency incident.
 - Determine how best to deploy our resources based on the risk profile of our communities.
 - Predict the effects of changes to our resource deployment pattern (for example, the impact on risk to life of moving a fire appliance from one location to another).
- The **Mosaic** population profiling tool, which enables us to evaluate risk by socio-demographic group.
- Our **Site Specific Risk Register**, which contains details of buildings and installations regarded as presenting or being vulnerable to particular types of risk. These risks include difficult access, dangerous construction and presence of explosives or other hazardous materials. These buildings and installations include industrial sites, entertainment complexes, water courses, water supplies and parts of the transport infrastructure, such as significant motorway junctions.

■ Our **Corporate Risk Register**, which captures and evaluates risks to our organisation and the people who work for us that may impact on our ability to deliver services safely and effectively.

■ **Community Risk Registers** such as the one maintained by the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum which identifies and evaluates potential hazards faced by the wider Thames Valley area, which includes Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, in the **Thames Valley Risk Register** (*click on the link at the bottom of this page*).

5.4 This Public Safety Plan is designed to set out the strategic direction of Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service over the next few years. It is informed by:

■ Our **Area Wide Review** (*click on the link at the bottom of this page*), which assesses current and future risks facing the communities we serve.

■ Our Medium Term Financial Plan, which sets out how much money we will have available to spend and invest on measures to reduce and manage the risks identified in the Area Wide Review.

5.5 The Public Safety Plan is part of a comprehensive integrated risk management planning framework that enables us to identify and address risks that face the communities that we serve as a whole. It also deals with risks that may be particular to certain localities.

5.6 The following documents contain additional information that you might find useful while formulating your response to this consultation document. Click on the pictures or go to **www.bucksfire.gov.uk/bucksfire/psp**



2009-12 Integrated Risk Management Plan



Area Wide Review



Fire Futures Reports: Government Response



Thames Valley Risk Register



2009-10 Annual Report

6 Our Performance

Community Safety

6.1 Over recent years our prevention activities have helped to drive down most types of incident and we have been particularly successful in dealing with deliberate fires (arson) and unwanted false alarms (from electronic sources or malicious sources) which divert resources from performing more useful work on behalf of the community. Overall we have seen a 31 per cent reduction in incident volumes compared with 2001.

6.2 The **Fire Futures Reports: Government Response** (*see hyperlink on previous page*) notes that nationally fire deaths have halved since the 1980s, and that risk to the public has reduced as fire and rescue services nationally and wider fire sector have been crucial in driving change in individual and community behaviour. It recognises the need for the fire and rescue service to be adaptable to meet the demands of the constantly evolving environment (changing demographics, climate change, terrorist threats) and to meet the greater expectations of the public – and to do this with reduced public funding. This will need a strong leadership and effective collaborative working with a wide range of services, and a will also involve local communities making hard decisions on priorities.

6.3 Using national statistics, we have compared our performance with all 46 fire and rescue services operating in England. We have used a framework designed to assess where we are in relation to our vision of making Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes the safest areas in England in which to live, work and travel as shown in **Table 2**:

Vision	Risk	Measure	English Fire and Rescue Services Annualised Average 2006-08			
			Best any	Best overall	Average	BFRS
Safest place to live	Primary domestic fire	Non-fatal casualties per million population	67.8	67.8	149.40	113.36
		Fatal casualties per million population	1.47	3.74	4.90	1.47
Safest place to work	Primary non-domestic fire	Non-fatal casualties per million population	9.88	11.00	21.89	29.30
		Fatal casualties per per million population	0	0	0.60	0.20
Safest place to travel	Road traffic collision	Killed or seriously injured per billion vehicle miles travelled	375	434	626	483

Note: Best overall performance was determined by ranking each fire and rescue service's performance for each of the five years. The 'best' performer was the one with the highest average ranking across all of the indicators over the five-year period.

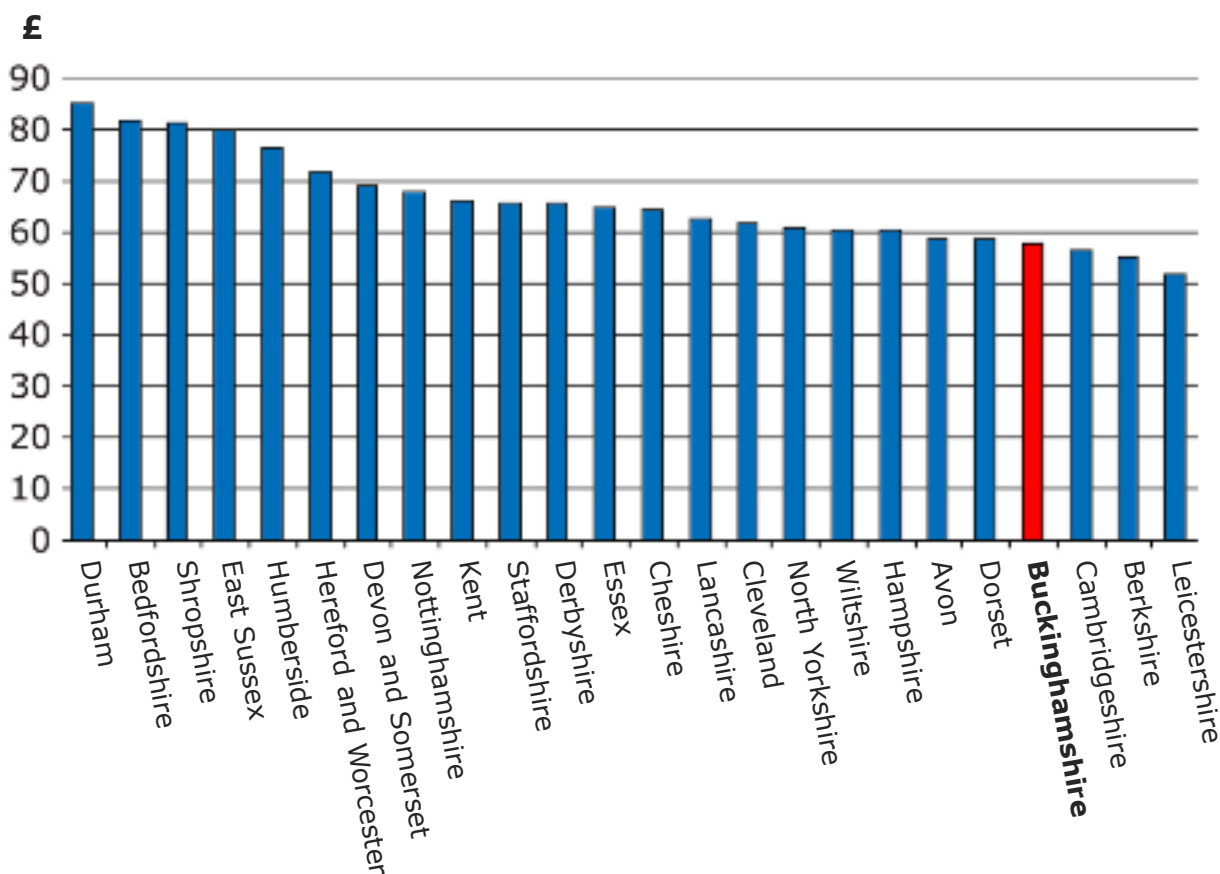
Sources: *Communities and Local Government National Fire Statistics 2004-08*;
Department for Transport – Road Casualties English Local Authority Tables 2004-08.

6.4 The table on the previous page indicates that over the five-year period to 2008, the most recent year for which national comparisons are available, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes were safer than the average across all but one of the key life risk indicators and amongst the safest for fatal fire risk. However, further progress is required in relation to fire injuries and road traffic collisions.

6.5 More detailed information about our performance can be found in our **2009-10 Annual Report** (see page 11).

Value for Money

6.6 In 2009-10, Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority was, per head of population, the seventh lowest spending of the 24 non-metropolitan fire and rescue authorities that are funded independently from local councils. We also levy the fourth lowest council tax charge of any Combined Fire Authority in England, as shown in **Table 4** below:



Source: CIPFA Fire & Rescue Service Statistics 2009.

7 Our Financial Position

7.1 Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority is one of the lowest-spending Combined Fire Authorities in the country. A Combined Fire Authority is one that serves an area in which there is more than one County Council or Unitary Authority.

7.2 We will nonetheless have to make significant reductions to our costs over the next four years. This is because the government, as part of its effort to reduce the national budget deficit, is reducing the grant support it provides to fire and rescue authorities by an expected 25 per cent over the four-year period of the Comprehensive Spending Review. This has significant budgetary implications for us as central government grant funding forms about 40 per cent of our overall revenue.

7.3 Our Medium Term Financial Plan envisages that we will need to find savings of £4.8 million over the next four years, as shown in **Table 5** below:

	2011/12 £	2012/13 £	2013/14 £	2014/15 £
Net budget requirement	29,419,000	30,164,000	30,762,000	31,333,000
Total funding available	-29,419,000	-27,979,000	-27,135,000	-26,540,000
Cumulative shortfall	-	2,185,000	3,627,000	4,793,000
Saving needed each year	-	2,185,000	1,442,000	1,166,000

Source: Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority Medium Term Financial Plan.

7.4 In line with government guidance, we are making efforts to reduce our support and management costs. However, the scale of the savings that we are required to make indicates that it will not be possible to achieve them all from reducing the cost of support functions alone. We will therefore also need to look at more economical ways of delivering our frontline services to the public.

7.5 We have already begun to implement some changes from our previous Public Safety Plan, the **2009-12 Integrated Risk Management Plan** (see page 11). These will help alleviate future funding pressures, but further steps will be needed. Areas that we intend to explore for further potential savings are set out in Section 10 of this plan.

8 Risk in the Community is Changing

8.1 The nature and distribution of risk in the community is constantly changing, both as a result of changes to the environment itself and interventions made by Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service and other agencies with which we work, including the police, local authority safety departments and the voluntary sector.

8.2 Over the last 10 years we have seen significant reduction in the total number of incidents. Overall incident volumes are now 31 per cent below where they were in 2001 (11,030 compared with 7,597 in 2010).

8.3 Our **Area Wide Review** (see page 11) indicates that the most significant changes to the nature and distribution of risk in the communities we serve over the medium term are likely to arise as a result of:

- Socio demographic trends – particularly the growth of the elderly as a proportion of the overall population. and the impact of migration. Both of these increase the number of people at greater risk from fire than is typical for the average member of the community.
- The growth of the urban environment and associated infrastructure, particularly in Milton Keynes and the Aylesbury Vale, the main designated growth areas, even though the scale and pace of this has slowed as a result of the economic downturn and following the abolition of the South East Spatial Plan.

8.4 More information on these trends and their likely impact is available in our **Area Wide Review** (see page 11).

9 Risk Management Strategy

9.1 Our **Area Wide Review** (see page 11) suggests that over the next few years we are likely to face potential increases in demand for our emergency response services due to:

- The overall growth in number and ageing of the population we serve.
- The effects of migration.
- The general growth of the urban environment and associated infrastructure, particularly in Milton Keynes.

9.2 At the same time we face significant reductions to our revenue following the government's decision to reduce grant funding to fire and rescue services over the four year period of the current Comprehensive Spending Review.

9.3 Our broad strategy is to contain any potential increase in demand for emergency response by continuing to invest in effective prevention and protection activities and improving the targeting of these to ensure that they are prioritised in favour of those most at risk from fire and other emergencies.

9.4 We also intend to review the way in which we provide our emergency response cover to see if there are opportunities to provide this on a more economical basis or deal with the risk in a different way – for example, using prevention and protection based services. Specific proposals for initial reviews are shown in the next section of this document.

Prevention

9.5 We are currently updating and integrating our various risk information systems to improve our ability to target those vulnerable to the risk of fire and other emergencies. However we will also work with our partner agencies to improve our 'risk intelligence' as it is difficult to locate and quantify the some of the more vulnerable elements of the population that we serve, such as recent migrants, using conventional socio-demographic risk profiling tools. We will also:

- Continue to work with planning authorities and other relevant agencies to ensure that fire safety is engineered into newly built environments.
- Give priority to parts of the community identified both as high risk and falling outside the areas that we can typically reach within 10 minutes of being called to an incident (the target we set for the attendance of the first response on 75 per cent of occasions).

- Continue to work with our partner agencies to support road safety and youth diversion programmes.

Protection

9.6 We will:

- Rationalise and improve our programme of audits of commercial and other non domestic premises which are identified as high risk to occupants from fire. This will include consideration of new premises in growth areas.
- Enhance our proactive engagement with the business community to help them reduce fire losses and improve employee and customer safety.
- Continue to reduce electronic false alarms from non-domestic premises.

Emergency response

9.7 We will:

- Review the scale and range of service provision to ensure that it is in proportion to the nature of scale of risks present within the communities we serve.
- Explore the opportunity to improve the efficiency with which services are provided by, for example, considering alternative and more flexible working arrangements.
- Consider further opportunities to reduce or manage risk in the community using non-response based approaches.
- Further investigate opportunities for greater collaboration and mutually beneficial partnerships with neighbouring fire and rescue services and, where appropriate, other agencies.

10 Our Proposals

10.1 We have conducted an initial review of our current emergency response provision and identified a number of opportunities which could have the potential to offer significant financial savings without fundamentally altering the level of service provided to the public. At this stage we are not proposing to bring in any of the options identified below until more detailed evaluations have been undertaken to identify the optimal means of delivering the service having regard to the:

- Public and staff safety implications.
- Feasibility of implementing any proposed changes.
- Scope for offsetting the impact of any changes with alternative risk reduction or risk management methods.

10.2 Once the evaluations have been completed, any changes that are considered to offer an acceptable balance between financial savings and risk will, where appropriate, be subject to further consultation. The final decision as to whether to proceed will be made by Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority in light of the feedback from any further consultations and management's recommendations.

10.3 Therefore the purpose of this consultation document is to seek feedback from the communities we serve, our staff, partner agencies and other interested parties, on the range and scope of the reviews we propose to undertake. We also welcome additional or alternative proposals to the ones outlined in the Public Safety Plan for consideration.

Review principles and assumptions

10.4 These reviews form part of a wider, three-year programme of revenue budget reductions to be achieved across all areas of the service. Assuming the expected reduction in government grant funding of 25 per cent outlined in the Comprehensive Spending Review to 2014/15, the options for consideration within the Plan will be based on the following principles and assumptions:

- We will seek to maintain the safety provision for the communities we serve and our own staff at all times.
- All proposals to be subject to full risk and impact assessments, and data analysis using nationally recognised models.
- There will be no reduction in the number of fire stations.
- There will be no, or minimal, change in the time taken by the first appliance to arrive at an incident.

- There will be no, or minimal, impact on the speed or weight of response.
- Where possible, any staffing changes will be achieved through natural wastage.
- We will explore more flexible or new ways of working.
- We will continue to seek further efficiencies in managerial and support arrangements.
- We will consult appropriately and fully consider all feedback.
- We will seek to optimise value for money by striking the right balance between effectiveness, efficiency and economy.

Review 1: Aerial appliance provision and crewing arrangements

10.5 Currently we have two aerial appliances, one of which is a combined aerial and rescue pump appliance based at Great Holm Fire Station, and the other a specialist aerial appliance based at High Wycombe Fire Station. An aerial appliance is a vehicle with an extending turntable ladder that enables firefighters to work at heights of up to 32 metres.

10.6 We are currently implementing some changes to the crewing of the appliance based at Great Holm, mandated by our 2009-12 Integrated Risk Management Plan. This involves moving from fully crewing the appliance with wholetime firefighters to crewing the appliance with wholetime staff when it is operating as an aerial appliance and supplementing these with Retained Duty System (part-time, on-call) firefighters when it is needed in its general pumping or rescue modes.

10.7 This review will consider:

- The future location and number of aerial appliances required.
- Crewing arrangements for the specialist aerial appliance currently located at High Wycombe Fire Station.

10.8 Currently the specialist aerial appliance based at High Wycombe is operated by a dedicated crew of two. Ensuring that it is available for immediate deployment at all times requires a complement of 12 wholetime firefighters working in shifts.

10.9 In addition to the aerial appliance, High Wycombe Fire Station also has two fire and rescue appliances each with a dedicated crew. These are crewed from a complement of 44 wholetime firefighters split into four watches with, typically, five crewing the first appliance and four on the second.

10.10 Under this proposal we will consider the risks and feasibility of crewing the aerial appliance using the second fire and rescue appliance crew, who would alternate between the two appliances. The rationale for this is that there are relatively few occasions when both of these appliances need to be deployed simultaneously. Where a conflict occurs, back-up is available from the Retained Duty System staff who crew the station's third fire and rescue appliance on an on-call basis or from neighbouring stations.

Review 2: Crewing arrangements at day-crewed stations

10.11 Currently, full-time firefighter cover is provided at our day-crewed stations (located at Amersham, Buckingham, Gerrards Cross and Newport Pagnell) between 9am and 6pm, seven days a week, with night cover provided by the same crew on an on-call basis. This system requires a pool of 13 firefighters organised into two separate watches who work in rotation. Two of our four day-crewed stations (Amersham and Buckingham) also have a second pump crewed by Retained Duty System (RDS) firefighters on an on-call basis.

10.12 The scope of this review would consider the impact of making changes to the crewing arrangements, such as changing the balance between wholetime and part-time, on-call (RDS) firefighter cover.

Review 3: Provision and crewing of wholetime appliances

10.13 Currently six of our fire stations have appliances that are crewed by full-time firefighters 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Three of these stations have two appliances crewed on this basis (Aylesbury, Great Holm and High Wycombe) and the remainder (Beaconsfield, Broughton and Bletchley) have one. This review will consider:

- The number of wholetime crewed appliances required to meet future needs.
- The feasibility and risks associated with potential changes to the crewing of wholetime appliances (similar to those being considered in Review 2).

Review 4: Urban Search and Rescue crewing and provision

10.14 We operate an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) service from a base at Aylesbury Fire Station – part of a national network of bases which help deal with the aftermath of major emergencies such as collapsed buildings, major transportation incidents, natural disasters and terrorist activity. It comprises five modules which each carry specialist equipment. These are crewed from a pool of 12 wholetime technicians. Currently this is largely funded from government grants. In the current financial environment, we consider it prudent to review the sustainability of the existing arrangements and how we would respond to any significant changes to the way it is currently funded.

11 Have Your Say

11.1 We are seeking your feedback by:

■ **Online questionnaire** – if you are reading an electronic copy of this document, use the link on the right. If you are reading a hard copy of this document but would like to fill in the online questionnaire, please go to **www.bucksfire.gov.uk/bucksfire/psp**



■ **Email** – **irmp@bucksfire.gov.uk**

■ **Post** – **Public Safety Plan, Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, Brigade Headquarters, Stocklake, Aylesbury, HP20 1BD.**

11.2 This is an important survey that concerns all residents, the business community, other public or voluntary agencies with whom we work and our own staff. We would welcome your views on all the proposals even if they do not specifically affect areas in which you live or work.

11.3 The identity of individual respondents, such as members of the public or our own staff, will be kept confidential. Where a response is issued on behalf of an organisation it will be attributed to that organisation, but the identity of the individual will remain anonymous.

11.4 This is your opportunity to help shape the future of Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service. We would be very grateful if you could take the time to complete and return the questionnaire no later than **9am on Tuesday 30 August 2011**. Everyone aged 16 or over in households can take part, as can representatives from business, public and voluntary organisations and our own staff – your views will help us deliver better and more cost-effective services for the future.

11.5 If you have any questions about the survey in general or require hard copies of the Public Safety Plan or the questionnaire, please telephone Stuart Gowanlock on **01296 744435** or email **irmp@bucksfire.gov.uk**

Appendix: Station Statistical Profiles

Fire station statistics 2010-11	Shift pattern (Note 1)	Number of dwelling fires (Note 2)	Injuries at dwelling fires	Fatalities at dwelling fires	Number of road traffic collisions	Injuries at road traffic collisions	Fatalities at road traffic collisions	Major incidents – five pumps or more	Primary fires (Note 3)	Secondary fires (Note 4)	False alarms	Other incidents	Total mobilisations 2010-11 (Note 5)	Number of fire engines	Number of special appliances (Note 6)
Milton Keynes															
Great Holm	W	56	9	1	124	25	2	7	628	197	793	191	1,978	2	1
Bletchley	W	54	8	2	56	23	2	7	321	191	420	146	1,144	2	0
Broughton	W	49	4	1	70	24	0	8	270	125	473	103	1,127	2	2
Newport Pagnell	D	22	0	0	36	13	1	4	127	36	176	49	448	1	1
Olney	R	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	18	7	19	3	54	1	0
Aylesbury Vale															
Aylesbury	W	50	6	0	174	24	0	6	424	193	538	191	1,501	3	7
Buckingham	D	9	1	0	43	14	0	3	72	20	131	22	329	2	0
Winslow	R	9	1	0	19	12	0	1	38	9	26	11	105	1	0
Brill	R	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	15	1	14	0	37	1	0
Waddesdon	R	2	0	0	4	3	1	0	21	9	19	3	57	1	0
Haddenham	R	4	0	0	7	5	0	1	23	7	25	3	68	1	0
Chiltern															
Amersham	D	21	3	0	45	14	1	4	157	43	286	58	600	2	0
Chesham	R	13	0	0	6	5	1	2	36	29	51	12	139	1	0
Great Missenden	R	9	1	0	16	5	0	1	42	22	40	22	150	1	1
Wycombe															
High Wycombe	W	62	9	0	209	31	3	7	643	268	695	171	2,005	3	1
Princes Risborough	R	6	0	0	12	4	0	3	87	39	54	17	224	1	1
Stokenchurch	R	7	0	0	17	4	0	1	57	11	36	8	137	1	1
Marlow	R	12	0	0	10	3	0	3	68	27	78	11	209	1	0
South Bucks															
Beaconsfield	W	21	2	0	119	37	0	1	248	91	292	66	823	2	1
Gerrards Cross	D	27	3	1	87	45	3	8	172	91	252	37	658	1	0
TOTAL		437	47	5	1,059	292	14	67	3,467	1,416	4,418	1,124	11,484		

Notes: **1** W = Wholetime, D = Day-crewed, R = Retained Duty System. **2** Chimney fires are not included in this figure. **3** Primary fire – fire involving property and/or casualties and/or involves five or more appliances. **4** Secondary fire – any other fire that does not involve casualties and which is attended by four or fewer appliances **5** This calculation is based on the number of times the appliances turn out. **6** The number of special appliances at Aylesbury Fire Station includes four Urban Search and Rescue vehicles.



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