



Title	Chief Fire Officer Report – Adult and Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee
Chief Fire Officer suite of Services	Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, Trading Standards, Civil Protection and Coroners Services.
Date	10 th March 2020
Purpose of Report	To provide a strategic update on issues and key areas of service provision, opportunities and challenges

Fire and Rescue

1. HMICFRS Inspection Update

Following the full Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) HMICFRS report publication on 17th December 2019, HMICFRS have now published the national State of Fire & Rescue 2019 along with the Public Perceptions of Fire and Rescue Services 2019 report.

The reports can be accessed at: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/state-of-fire-and-rescue-2019-double-page.pdf>

The Service will consider the report findings alongside the outcome of the GFRS HMICFRS inspection Report to develop an appropriate improvement plan.

GFRS has now been informed that the next HMICFRS full inspection will take place in June 2021. In the meantime, an HMICFRS inspection team of 6 will carry out a re-visit in September 2020. The re-visit will look at protection (business fire safety) and review how well GFRS is progressing against its action plan.

A new Service Liaison Lead (SLL), John Robertson has been appointed. He will meet with the GFRS Service Liaison Officer monthly. This will support the progression against improvement actions plans and the development of the Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

Following a two year secondment to HMICFRS, Jan Morris has joined GFRS on a 6 month secondment. Her role will specifically look at required improvement areas based on HMICFRS report findings and recent audit reports.

GFRS continues to work to its cultural development plan. The Core Values workshops have almost been completed and a new visualisation will be displayed at all stations once the final workshop has been completed in February.

2. IRMP

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England requires every Fire and Rescue Service to write an IRMP that covers the following:

- To identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue-related risks their areas face, make provision for prevention and protection activities and respond to incidents appropriately
- 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
- To work in partnership with their communities and a wide range of partners locally and nationally to deliver their services
- To be accountable to communities for the service they provide

The Service has begun the development of its next Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), which is due for publication in April 2021. The IRMP will set out the vision for the Service over the next three years and will be supported by yearly action plans, which detail how the objectives set out in this plan will be achieved.

HMICFRS identified areas for improvement in the current IRMP and work has begun to ensure these areas are being addressed. Working with the corporate MAIDEN and data analysis team based at Shire Hall a full assessment of risk in the county will be undertaken. The success of the IRMP will depend on this cross service collaboration.

3. Structural Review Update

Implementation of the new structure is almost complete following the 'go-live' date of the 6th January 2020. Existing staff have transitioned into new roles and recruitment for the new green book posts is underway. A copy of the new structure can be seen at appendix A.

4. Response and Resilience Update (including CPT)

Daily Tactical Coordinating Group Meetings took place during the recent poor weather conditions. GFRS and SARA both supported residents who were happy to remain in their properties which were inaccessible by car by providing necessary provisions. Some evacuations took place from Sandhurst Lane, Longford and Tewkesbury areas. GFRS also accompanied the GCC Traveller Liaison Officer by boat to Willows Site to arrange to do a welfare check of residents, take provisions to the camp and evacuate an individual who required routine medical treatment. GFRS also undertook site assessments to enable pumping resources to be put in place to reduce the risk of flooding at Castlemeads electricity sub-station and the River Twyver culvert if required. The Service rescued a number of motorists from cars that had been stranded driving through flood water, and GFRS Control dealt with numerous flood related calls over the period.

CPT arranged for Gloucestershire Emergency Support Team volunteers to be on standby to support Gloucester City Council with the Rest Centre that was activated at GL1 if necessary. Colleagues from GCC Adult Social care ran reports to check for any known vulnerable individuals in flood risk areas. CPT liaised with District Councils to provide advice and coordinate support via GFRS and GCC Highways with any specific requests. GCC Highways put road closures and traffic management systems in place, and regularly monitored conditions, keeping the road closure information on GCC website up to date. GCC Flood Risk Management Team assisted the City Council and Police with door knocking in flood risk areas.

GCC Communications issued messages regarding the safety risk of 'Flood Tourists' going to view flooded areas, which other agencies have been reinforcing. Several live media interviews were given by GCC staff over the period.

5. Fire Estate

Discussions have taken place to ensure the GCC estate considers the most effective and efficient use of fire stations across the county. There are 21 stations that provide opportunities to deliver a range of community focussed services. Some of these stations are in rural communities where their use as a community asset could be beneficial either as a place from which the county council can deliver services, staff can work remotely or an asset which community groups could make use of. This will be developed in to the next integrated risk management plan in consultation with the One Public Estate strategy and the community safety strategy of GFRS which will be closely linked with the adult social care and public health strategies and objectives.

Trading Standards

6. Brexit

The UK exited the EU on the 31st January 2020 (Brexit). At the moment the UK is still in a transition phase while negotiations take place between the Government and the EU. The UK has been a member of the EU for 40 years. In that time various EU directives, Regulations and shared networks have had huge impact on Trading Standards and the trading activity of businesses trading with the EU.

The Government have taken the lead on Brexit information and the GCC website has links to the relevant pages. Moving forward it is anticipated that local business may have a greater need for advice provided by the Trading Standards Service especially if they are importing into, or exporting out of the EU. This may lead to more officers having to deal with these issues and other areas of the Service may have to take a lower priority.

There may also be a need to increase training to officers so that they have the necessary expertise to advise and enforce any new legislation that may be enacted. It is difficult at this moment to forecast what may happen as negotiations are still ongoing.

Civil Protection Team

7. Berkeley Nuclear Power Station (Magnox)

In May 2019 revised Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPPPIR) came into force and placed a number of new statutory duties on top tier local authorities in terms of emergency planning for licenced nuclear sites. For Berkeley Site, in 2017 the Office for Nuclear Regulation confirmed that the offsite emergency plan could be withdrawn as a radiation emergency was no longer reasonably foreseeable at the site.

Whilst there is no change to the risk at Berkeley Site, the revised REPPPIR regulations and methodology mean that GCC is now required to undertake some outline emergency planning including submitting an offsite emergency plan to the Office of Nuclear Regulation by June 2020. The Civil Protection Team (CPT) has been liaising with Magnox (who operate Berkeley Site) and other partners including Stroud District Council to meet the REPPPIR statutory duties by the specified timescales. CPT will be leading on the development of a

suitable offsite emergency plan over the next few months and consulting multi-agency partners as appropriate.

8. Extraordinary BCM Assurance Board

An extraordinary BCM Assurance Board took place on 13th February 2020 to assure GCC BCM arrangements are in place to deal with potential consequences of the Corona Virus (ie: Staff Sickness, quarantine of buildings, protective measures for front line staff etc.).

9. Service Level Agreements

Service Level Agreements (SLA's) with District Councils for CPT Officers to provide emergency management advice / guidance and support them to align with their statutory duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 are due to finish 31st March 2020. The SLA contracts need to be reviewed and to allow time to do this effectively a variation of contract for a 12 month extension has been proposed to district councils.

10. GCC BCM Audit

Internal Audit will carry out a review of business continuity management within GCC. The full scope of the audit will be agreed during February 2020.

11. Executive Decision Making by an Officer with Delegated Powers

Decisions taken for this reporting period by the Chief Fire Officer Wayne Bowcock:

- Disposal of obsolete structural firefighting PPE
- Disposal of obsolete operational fire service ladders

Forthcoming decisions to be taken by the Chief Fire Officer in consultation with the LCM:

- Grey book staff 'continuous professional development' payment uplift.

Report end