

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 11:08 AM

Subject: CRMP 2024 - 2027 Consultation Feedback

Following our meeting last week I wanted to provide you written feedback on our observations and thoughts.

Overall the FOA feel that the 15 proposals represent an ambitious, innovative and progressive vision for the next 3 years. The proposals seek to improve the service to our communities, through increased provision, more efficient and effective use of resources and enhanced collaboration. The proposals are well supported by the extensive data and evidence provided in the draft CRMP.

The FOA would make specific comment as follows

A number of the proposals will require significant capital investment in fleet and equipment. With MFRA being unsuccessful in securing council tax flexibility for 24/25 and the uncertain economic landscape following the general election, such investment may prove difficult. In our view development of these proposals should include options for how they could be delivered with minimal capital investment. For example, there would appear to be significant synergy between the proposals to reintroduce a Small Fires Unit and riding 3 on an appliance. A negotiated agreement on riding 3 for non-life risk incidents would appear to make the introduction of a dedicated SFU vehicle unnecessary.

The FOA understands that scoping work has already started to look at the feasibility of a dive team staffed by members of the Marine Rescue Unit. We expect that this will require a review of job descriptions and grades and are keen to understand the staff implications for those members who either do not wish to or are unable to complete relevant diver qualifications. We would also wish to fully understand the implications for our current response to incidents on the river when the MRU staff are undertaking training for this new role or responding as the dive rescue team.

We note the proposal to change the way in which watch managers carry out their duties. We would expect the duties and tasks of these roles to be very clearly defined to ensure that the requirements stay within the Watch Manager role map. FOA knows that systems such as this are operated in other FRS's and would expect feedback from those services on how this system operates is considered in any discussions.

We note that a number of the proposals involve new or additional areas of work. The FOA is keen to understand how this will be serviced from a staff point of view, which areas will be delivered through existing staff working additional hours and which areas will be delivered through new employees.

The draft CRMP contains a large amount of information which may be complex to understand for members of the public who are not familiar with the workings of the Fire and Rescue Service. The table on pages 40 – 43 would appear to offer a simple explanation of the proposals and we would suggest that this is moved to an earlier point in the

document. To ease reading we would further suggest that more of the data is moved to the appendices allowing the salient points to be presented more succinctly. A number of the graphs and charts would also benefit from being enlarged on single pages to ease reading.

As always the FOA looks forward to engaging constructively with Service managers and the Authority to explore and develop these proposals further.

Regards



Fire Officers Association : Merseyside Brigade Chair

