

One Year Action Plan Consultation 2023 - 2024

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service



1. Introduction

Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service's (CFRS) activity is driven by a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), a document that outlines the risks within Cumbria, and how the Service plans to respond to them. The change of governance to a Police Fire and Crime Commissioner model requires that the current CRMP needs to be extended for a further year.

In preparing the document the Service has used all the intelligence available to put forward several proposals that will allow it to continue to protect the most vulnerable in Cumbria.

In agreeing the final CRMP, it is important that we get as much feedback as possible about the proposals within this document and anything else you feel important is taken into account.

Please use the contact information at the end of this document to feed your views into the process. This will allow CFRS to continue to deliver for the people of Cumbria.



John Beard
Chief Fire Officer



2. Community Risk Management Planning

As required by the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 the Government outlines its expectations of English Fire and Rescue Authorities through a National Framework. One of the Government's expectations is the assessment of local risks to life and how effectively resources are used in response to those risks; more commonly known as a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP).

The CRMP must

- Reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies, and partners
- Cover at least a three year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as it is necessary to ensure that fire and rescue authorities are able to deliver the requirements set out in this Framework
- Reflect up to date risk analyses and the evaluation of service delivery outcomes

The current CRMP runs from 2019 – 2023. Developed throughout 2018, it builds on a comprehensive risk based evidence profile and the analysis carried out by Operational Research in Health (ORH). The CRMP does not have an associated action plan, but reference to the key objectives contained within the CRMP are regularly referenced in other Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service documents.

Under normal circumstances CFRS would currently be working on a new CRMP to cover the period 2023 – 2026. However due to the process of Local Government Reorganisation and the Police and Crime Commissioner assuming governance responsibility for CFRS, this is impractical.

In September 2022, the current Fire Authority, Cumbria County Council agreed that the CRMP 2019 – 2023 could be extended by one year. This would allow CFRS to work within its new governance framework to develop a CRMP that covers 2024 – 2027. In extending the CRMP, the Chief Fire Officer was very clear that a one year action plan be created to cover the interim period.

This action plan allows CFRS to demonstrate its understanding of the current risk profile within Cumbria and outline a series of actions to ensure it is responding effectively to the needs of Cumbria's residents, visitors businesses.

3. Understanding, measuring and reducing risk

Understanding risk

When we think about risk we consider the likelihood and potential impact of events that could require a response from the fire and rescue service. Understanding risk allows us to make informed judgements about the level of resource we need to be able to respond appropriately and keep people safe.

While we do not often consider it this way, there is a level of risk that is generally judged to be acceptable. That is why we have never had a fire station on every street corner or in every small village / conurbation.

Risks in Cumbria

Looking at the county as a whole we recognise that there a range of factors which increase the level of risk in Cumbria from a fire and rescue service perspective. They include:

- Cumbria's unique geography, including numerous mountains, lakes and rivers.
- Major transport routes, including road and rail.
- A sparsely populated county with 50% of the population living in rural areas.
- A huge influx of tourists every year, many times the size of the resident population over the course of the year.
- An ageing population, with associated increased mobility issues and incidence of degenerative illnesses.
- Major industrial sites, including Sellafield and BAE Systems.
- A history of major weather events, including severe flooding and snowfall.

Our understanding of risk in the county is informed by all these factors. The latest available intelligence on these risks and others can be found on the Intelligence Observatory website at www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/

Within Cumbria, the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), maintains a risk register of those issues that cut across emergency services and have the potential to cause significant disruption within Cumbria. These risks are also considered by CFRS when making decisions. cumbria.gov.uk/emergencyplanning/crf.asp

An understanding of future developments in Cumbria, which may impact on decision making is important. The service makes good use of the intelligence provided by the Local Economic Partnership (thecumbrialep.co.uk) to consider possible future demand on its services.

Risk Modelling

Fire Risk Modelling

The list above gives general or contextual risks, but to assess risk systematically the best approach is to use a Fire Risk Model (FRM).

In recent months the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and ORH have been working together on a project to establish a national definition of risk and a framework that allows for the conceptualisation of that definition. Crucial to the delivery of this project is the development of a risk assessment model that can be consistently applied across all services.

The application of this model allows CFRS to make informed decisions about where best to focus its activities to reduce the risk and vulnerability within local communities.

The Fire Risk Model involves the analysis of the number of fires and a wide range of data sources including:

- Indices of Multiple Deprivation
- Health
- Transport
- Employment
- Housing

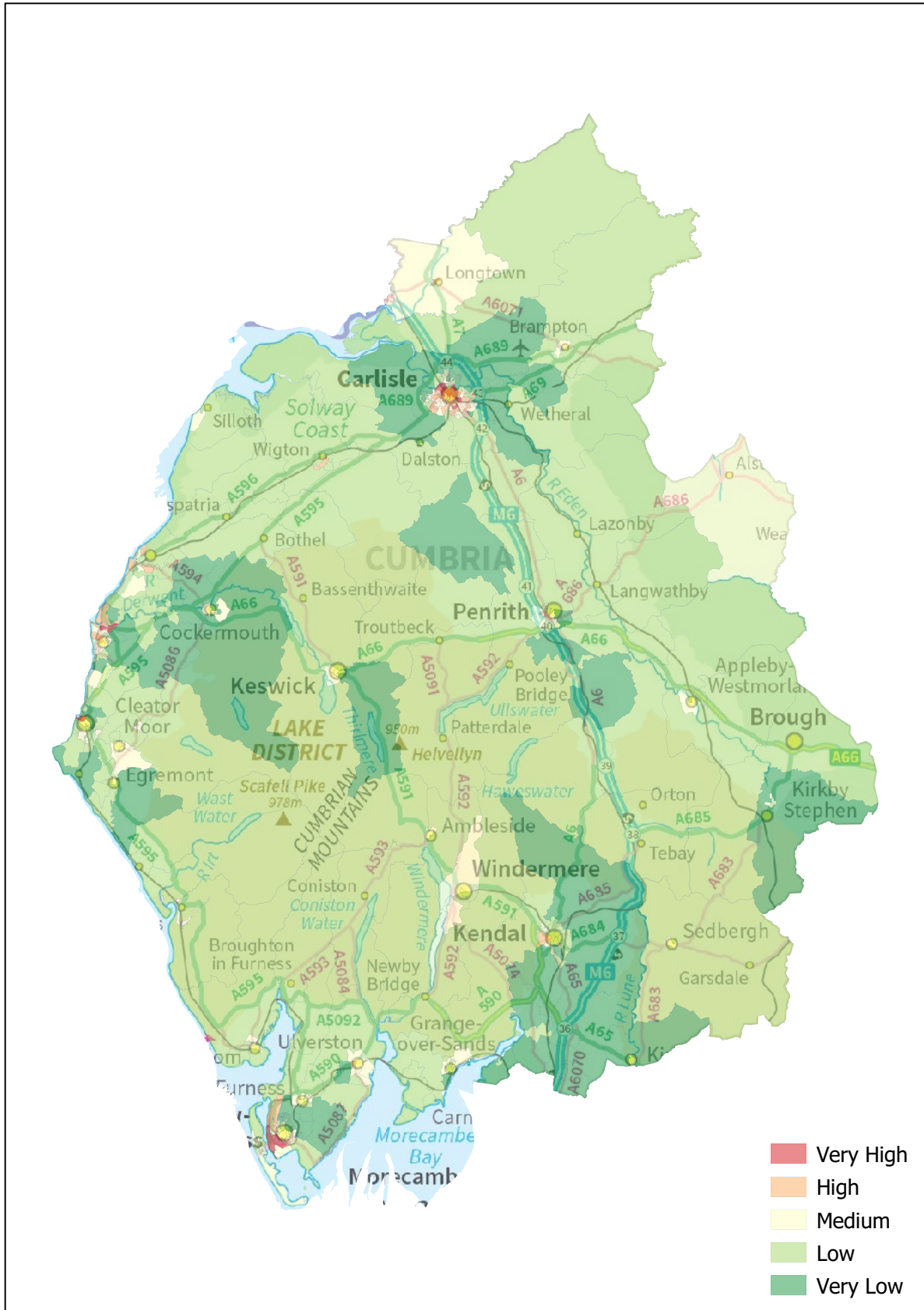
The model allows us to generate an overall 'risk score' for the whole county as well as a score for each Lower Super Output Area (LSOA), dependent on that score we classify it as very high, high, medium, low or very low risk.

What the Fire Risk Model tells us

The map overall is a comprehensive breakdown of fire risk in Cumbria. As can be seen, those lower super output areas (LSOA) with the highest level of risk tend to be in the more urban areas of Cumbria. Using this information the Service can make informed decisions about the location and use of the assets at its disposal.

(Please note that direct comparisons cannot be made to Fire Risk Models in previous Integrated Risk Management Plans due to a change in methodology).

Fire Risk Modelling by LSOA



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In addition to FRM, it is also important to consider Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) and the impact of flooding. These two types of incident when combined with fire incidents make up the majority of incidents within Cumbria where life may be put at risk.

Road Traffic Collisions

CFRS works in partnership with a number of agencies to reduce the risk and impact of RTCs. Education and prevention activity play an important role in reducing the number of RTCs, as well as work in partnership with the Cumbria Road Safety Partnership (CRSP) www.crsp.co.uk

The Service has access to a wide range of data, including that shared by the Constabulary that allow an understanding of RTCs in Cumbria, and a suitable response to be developed.

Flooding

Within the United Kingdom, the Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for flood and coastal erosion risk management activities on main rivers and the coast, regulating reservoir safety, and working in partnership with the Met Office to provide flood forecasts and warnings. Rather than reinvent the wheel it makes sense for CFRS to use data available to it through the EA to consider flooding risk.

Comprehensive flood risk mapping can be found at flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/

The name for the document that summarises all the information mentioned in this action plan as well as several other data sources is a Risk Based Evidence Profile (RBEP). The current RBEP uses a wide range of data, presented graphically using an online performance dashboard. The dashboard is regularly updated and available internally to inform decision making.

When making strategic decisions it is important to consider data over a period of time, rather than a specific instance. Our RBEP allows both incident and risk data to be considered that then informs decision making.



3. Service Information

As well as risk information, it is important to understand the assets at the Services disposal to reduce the risk within Cumbria. The map below shows the latest station structure.

Key

- = On-call
- = Full time/Day Crew and Full time/Day Crew with On-call

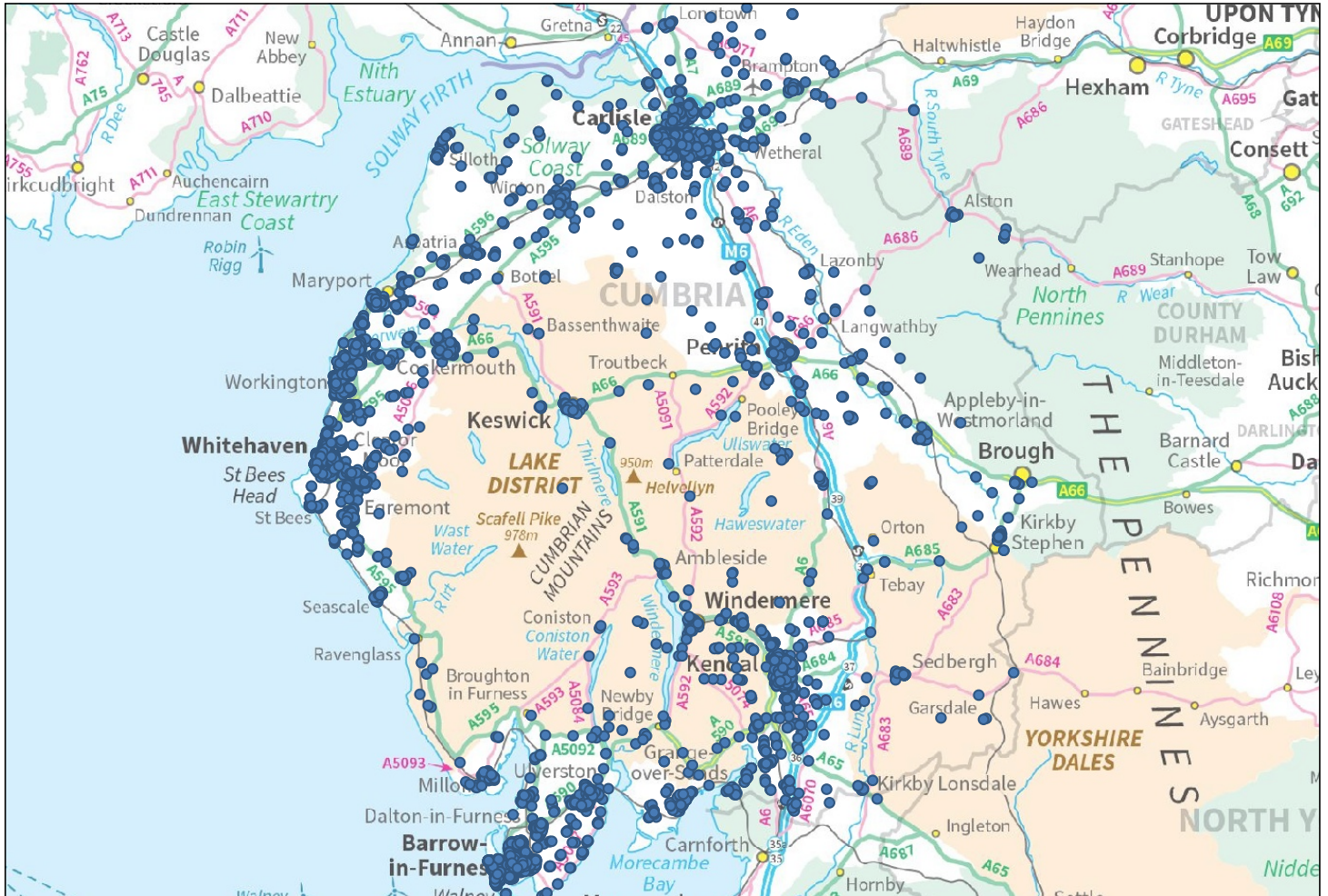


When considering a risk profile, as well as understanding the location of the Service Assets, it is important to understand the level of Prevention and Protection activity within service area.

Prevention

In the last complete financial year, CFRS delivered over 10,000 prevention activities including the fitting of smoke alarms. The main intervention is a Safe and Well visit, an in depth discussion with a practitioner to take account of your individual circumstances, that includes social wellbeing, slips trips and falls and smoking and alcohol advice. The Safe and Well visit is supplemented by a wide range of activities that include water safety, RTC reduction and youth engagement, all designed to reduce the risk to the people of Cumbria.

2021 -2022 Financial Year Safe and Well Visits



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The Service approach to Prevention utilises data analysis, direct referrals from partner agencies such as Adult Social Care and targeted addresses provided by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIS) via the NHS Corporate Information Governance team. This allows activity to be focussed on the most vulnerable irrespective of proximity to a large urban area or rural locale.

Home Safety Visits

cumbria.gov.uk/cumbriafire/services/safetyathome/default.asp



Protection

The role of the protection team is to work proactively towards reducing the impact of fire in commercial premises and to target those that pose the greatest risk to life, property, environment and the nations heritage. This takes the form of in depth audits and business engagement activity, all informed by a comprehensive Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP).

2021 -2022 Financial Year Audits



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Using a risk-based approach to target those most at risk, CFRS undertakes fire safety audits prioritising resources towards premises on the basis of highest risk, thereby ensuring that our resources are targeted where they can be most effective.

By consulting with other regulatory services and taking a collaborative approach the Service ensures appropriate solutions to protect the public using commercial premises are put in place.

Prevention and Protection are both vital tools in reducing the risk of fire in Cumbria, and must be considered when developing an action plan.

4. Reviewing the service we provide

In reviewing service provision, the information in this document along with the Risk Based Evidence Profile is considered and then the Service Leadership team apply their professional judgement and the resulting priorities are consulted upon.

As well as looking at county wide issues and trends we have developed individual station risk profiles (available on our website) which consider:

- Resources
- On-call Appliance Availability
- Activity
- Fire Risk Profile
- Next nearest supporting appliances
- Other contextual information
- Location specific risks including: heritage risk, environment risk, site specific risks, flooding risks, rurality, resilience risk.

5. Our priorities for consultation

Our priorities for 2023/24 are.

Corporate

- Work with the Cumbria Commissioner Fire & Rescue Authority to maximise the opportunities that arise from a change in Governance
- Following the publication of the HMICFRS inspection report, build on any areas of good practice identified whilst also working to address any areas for improvement
- Improve the current approach to Performance Management within CFRS

People

- Ensure that comprehensive support mechanisms are available to our staff to assist with their welfare at all times

Prevention

- Work towards the Fire Standard for fire prevention and mould our home safety offer to put the individual at the heart of everything we do
- Support the ongoing development of the Community Safety Team and explore further opportunities to develop our Community Safety offer in partnership with other agencies for example health, housing and local authorities

Protection

- Continue to work with local and regional stakeholders to implement understanding and embed the new Fire Safety Bill & changes to Fire Protection legislation
- Continue to engage with local business to increase fire protection understanding & compliance and reduce the number of unwanted fire signals

Operational

- We will continue to review our operational capability to ensure that resources are best utilised to protect the residents, business and visitors to Cumbria.

6. Have your say

We welcome your feedback on this document and the priorities we have proposed. Consultation will close on 3 March 2023.

How to respond

There are a number of ways you can have your say:

Online:

You can respond to this consultation online at www.cumbria.gov.uk/fire

In writing:

Fire Strategy and Reform Manager
Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters
Carleton Avenue
PENRITH
Cumbria
CA10 2FA

E-mail: irmp@cumbria.gov.uk

NOTE: All responses from individuals will be anonymised. Where a response is received on behalf of an organisation, it will be attributed to the organisation and not the individual respondent.



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