

Major Incident Review: Extreme Weather Period 2022

Report to:

Performance, Risk and Assurance Board
Commissioner's Board
Deputy Mayor's Fire and Resilience Board

Date:

30 January 2023
7 February 2023
28 February 2023

Report by:

Thomas Goodall Assistant Commissioner, Service Delivery Assurance

Report classification:

For information

For publication

PART ONE

Non-confidential facts and advice to the decision-maker

Executive Summary

LFB has implemented a review of the extreme weather period in 2022 to identify both good practice and learning that can be derived from our response.

Recommended decisions

The London Fire Commissioner

1. Agrees to direct the Deputy Commissioner and Operational Director for Prevention, Protection and Policy to review London Fire Brigade's (LFB) Prevention and Protection strategies in light of the events of July 2022, the subsequent good practice instigated in London, and best practice nationally and internationally; with the objective of reducing the frequency and impact of incidents that occur as a result of extreme heat.
2. Agrees to direct the Deputy Commissioner and Operational Director for Preparedness and Response to review LFB's Preparedness strategies in light of the events of July 2022 with the objective of ensuring that the good practice demonstrated in relation to other short and no notice events is applied to extreme heat warnings. The London Fire Brigade should consider introducing "States of Readiness" in line with other partner agencies.
3. Agrees to direct the Deputy Commissioner and Operational Director for Preparedness and Response to review LFB's tactical and strategic operational response to wildfire events to ensure that both operational and strategic leaders are equipped to effectively manage extreme demand on the LFB's finite resources.
4. Notes the 15 recommendations from the Operational Improvement Process and directs the Deputy Commissioner and Operational Director for Prevention, Protection and Policy to embed the principles of National Operational Guidance into the LFB corporate risk management planning process that evaluates prevention, protection, response and resilience arrangements.

The Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience

That the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience notes the report

1 Introduction and background

- 1.1 The summer of 2022 saw a sustained period of hot weather, with London seeing its hottest days on record. The effects of this sustained hot weather led to the 19 July being one of the London Fire Brigade's busiest days on record.
- 1.2 The 19 July saw two incidents declared as major incidents and a pan-London Major incident declared.
- 1.3 The London Fire Brigade is a learning organisation, and this review has been conducted in that light.

- 1.4** The Major Incident Review aims to identify good practice and learning associated with our response to this extreme weather event.

2 Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1** The Commissioner is asked to consider the attached report and associated recommendations with a view to reducing the impact of harm in the event of future extreme weather events.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1** The LFC and the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience are required to have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) when taking decisions. This in broad terms involves understanding the potential impact of policy and decisions on different people, taking this into account and then evidencing how decisions were reached.

- 3.2** It is important to note that consideration of the Public Sector Equality Duty is not a one-off task. The duty must be fulfilled before taking a decision, at the time of taking a decision, and after the decision has been taken.

- 3.3** The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership (but only in respect of the requirements to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination), race (ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality), religion or belief (including lack of belief), sex, and sexual orientation.

- 3.4** The Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision-takers in the exercise of all their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other prohibited conduct.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 3.5** Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic where those disadvantages are connected to that characteristic.
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

- 3.6** The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

- 3.7** Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- tackle prejudice
- promote understanding.

- 3.8** Equality issues have been considered in this report and there is no impact in relation to the recommendation. It is anticipated that equality issues will be addressed in greater detail as each respective department considers how it will respond to the report and the

recommendations.

4 Other considerations

Workforce comments

- 4.1** Staff and stakeholders have extensively contributed to the development of this report. There are no direct requirements for representative body consultation in this report; however, any consultation requirements arising will be progressed by respective departments in their response to the findings of the report and recommendations.

Sustainability comments

- 4.2** Sustainability has not been directly addressed in this report; however, it is anticipated that sustainability will be addressed as each respective department considers how it will respond to the report and recommendations.

Procurement comments

- 4.3** There are no direct requirements for procurement arising from this Major Incident Review, however any procurement requirements arising will be progressed by the respective departments in their response to the findings of the report and the recommendations.

Communications comments

- 4.4** Advice will be sought from the Communication team on the most appropriate way to share the findings of the Major Incident Review.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1** This report sets out a Major Incident Review of the extreme weather period in July 2022. The report recommends that the LFB carries out further reviews of specific areas and notes the 15 recommendations from the Operational Improvement Process.
- 5.2** There are no direct financial implications arising from this Major Incident Review. The further reviews and work recommended by the report may however result in financial pressures that should be considered in line with existing governance requirements once identified and form part of subsequent reporting as necessary.
- 5.3** It should also be noted that the extreme weather period resulted in increased overtime requirements over the period impacted, contributing to a forecast overspend on overtime in 2022/23.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1** The report makes recommendations for the London Fire Brigade to review its tactical and strategic response to tackle extreme weather-related major incidents and incorporate National Operational Guidance into relevant policies.

Section 1 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 ('the Act') states that the Commissioner is the fire and rescue authority for Greater London. The core statutory duties of firefighting to road traffic accidents are set out in sections 6-9 of the 2004 Act. This includes a duty to secure the provision of personnel, services and equipment necessary to efficiently meet all normal requirements; secure the provision of training for personnel; and making arrangements for ensuring that

reasonable steps are taken to preventing or limiting damage. Section 5 of the same Act enables the Commissioner to do anything he considers appropriate for the purpose incidental or indirectly incidental for the purposes of carrying out any of the fire and rescue services functions.

The recommendations in this report align with the aforementioned statutory duties, will enable continuous improvement in dealing with major incidents relating to extreme weather; and ensure the LFB remains efficient and effective.

The report is intended to be submitted to the Deputy Mayor for Fire. The LFC Governance Direction 2018 requires the Deputy Mayor to have sight of anything that is reasonably considered to be novel, contentious or repercussive irrespective of its monetary value which can be nil. Whilst this matter is not considered to be novel, contentious or repercussive in nature, it is being presented for information only, due to the importance and impact of the subject matter.

List of appendices

Appendix	Title	Open or confidential*
1	Major Incident Review: Extreme Weather Period 2022.	Open

Part two confidentiality

Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be in the separate Part Two form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a Part Two form: NO

Originating officer declaration

Reporting officer to confirm the following by using 'x' in the box:

Reporting officer

Thomas Goodall has drafted this report and confirms the following:

1. Assistant Director/Head of Service

Fiona Doleman has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to Board for consideration

N/A

2. Advice

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal:

Hameera Darr Legal Advisor, on behalf of General Counsel (Head of Law and Monitoring Officer).

N/A

David O'Sullivan Financial Advisor, on behalf of the Chief Finance Officer.

N/A