

OFFICIAL

Agenda item: 08

Membership of the Authority and Appointment to Committees

Full Authority

Date:	25 September 2026
Submitted by:	Director of Corporate Services
Purpose:	To advise of a change of membership of the Authority and make changes to Committee memberships as appropriate.
Recommendations:	That the report be noted and the appointments to Committees be agreed.
Summary:	Cllr Matthew Caton has been appointed as Wakefield Member for the Reform UK Group with effect from 24 June 2026. Members of two Independent Groups are making a Constituted Political Group in accordance with The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 Section 8. Cllr Richard Smith replaces Cllr Sarah Wood as member for Kirklees.

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category:	None
Contact Officer:	Jik Townson, Committee Services and Governance Officer Jik.Townson@Westyorksfire.gov.uk
Background papers open to inspection:	None
Annexes:	WYFRA Committee Memberships 2026/27

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following the Authority AGM on 19 June 2026, notification was received from Wakefield Council of the appointment of Councillor Matthew Caton as Wakefield member for the Reform UK Group for the 2026/27 municipal year.
- 1.2 The Kirklees independent Group Member, Councillor Patel and the Valley Independent Group Member, Councillor Greaves are to join a Constituted Political Group called The West Yorkshire Group in accordance with The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 Section 8
- 1.3 Notification has been received from Kirklees Council that Cllr Richard Smith (Conservative Group) is replacing Cllr Sarah Wood (Reform UK Group) with immediate effect due to a change in their proportionality.

2. Information

- 2.1 Councillor Matthew Caton has been appointed to the Fire Authority and replaces Councillor Hardie as member of the Finance and Resources Committee.
- 2.2 Further changes to committee membership have been made as follows; Councillor Thewlis replaces Councillor Hardie as a member of Audit Committee, Councillor Smith replaces Councillor Wood as a member of Community Safety Committee and Councillor Booth as a member of People and Culture Committee, Councillor Booth replaces Councillor Wood as a member and Vice Chair of the Local Pension Board.
- 2.3 Membership of the Authority and Appointments to Committees for 2026/27 is attached in Appendix A.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution.

5. Human Resource and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 There are no human resource and diversity implications arising from this report.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? No

7. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

7.1 There are no health, safety and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

8. Environmental Implications

8.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report

9. Risk Management Implications

9.1 There are no Risk Management Implications arising from this report

10. Duty to Collaborate Implications (Police and Crime Act 2017)

10.1 There are no duties to collaborate identified in this report

11. Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

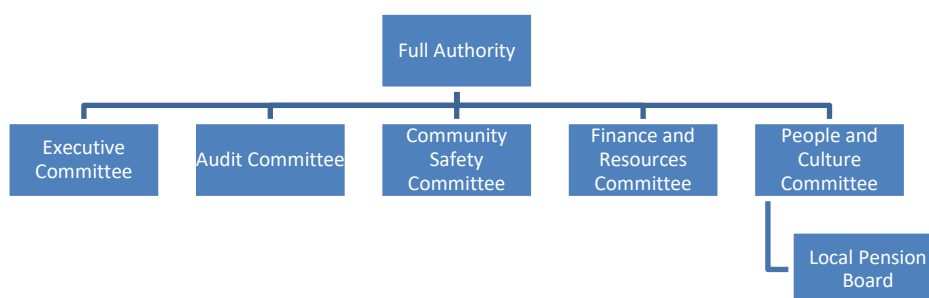
11.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2025-28 strategic priorities below:

- Prioritise a people first mindset through ethical and professional leadership and management
- Use resources in an innovative, sustainable, and efficient manner to maximise value for money.
- Further develop a culture of excellence, equality, learning, and inclusion.

12. Conclusions

12.1 That committee membership for 2026/27 is approved.

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Committee Structure and Membership 2026/27



Full Authority (22)

Group	Councillor
Bradford Independent (1)	Ali
Conservative (3)	Davies
	Seary
	Smith
Green (2)	Rangzeb
	Walker
Labour (6)	Bruce
	Dodds
	Fazal
	Garvani
	Parnham
	Rontree
Liberal Democrats (1)	Downes
Reform (7)	Booth
	Caton
	Crashley
	Dresser
	Hardie
	Hodgson
	Thewlis
West Yorkshire Group (2)	Greaves
	Patel

Executive Committee (6)

Liberal Democrat (1)	Downes (C)
Labour (3)	Garvani (VC)
	Fazal
	Parnham
Conservative (1)	Davies
Reform (1)	Booth (L)

People and Culture Committee (11)

Labour (3)	Bruce (C)
	Garvani
	Rontree
Reform (4)	Crashley (L)
	Dresser
	Hardie
	Thewlis
Conservative (1)	Smith
Green (1)	Walker (VC)
Bradford Independent (1)	Ali
West Yorkshire Group (1)	Patel

Finance And Resources Committee (11)

Labour (3)	Dodds (VC)
	Garvani
	Parnham
Reform (5)	Booth (L)
	Caton
	Crashley
	Dresser
	Hodgson
Conservative (1)	Davies (C)
Green (1)	Rangzeb
West Yorkshire Group (1)	Greaves

Audit Committee (6)

Labour (1)	Parnham (C)
Reform (1)	Thewlis (L)
Conservative (1)	Seary (VC)
Green (1)	Rangzeb
Liberal Democrat (1)	Downes
West Yorkshire Group (1)	Greaves

Community Safety Committee (11)

Labour (2)	Dodds
	Fazal (C)
Reform (4)	Booth
	Crashley
	Dresser
	Hardie (L)
Conservative (2)	Seary
	Smith
Green (1)	Walker
Bradford independent (1)	Ali (VC)
West Yorkshire Group (1)	Patel

Local Pension Board (2 x Employer representatives)

Labour (1)	Downes
Reform (1)	Booth

Substitutes

Any Member from relevant Group who is not substantive Member of the Committee.

Briefing Group Arrangements 2026 / 2027

Group / Position	Member	Substitute
Full Authority		
Chair	Cllr Downes	Any Labour Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Garvani	Any Labour Member
Reform	Cllr Booth	Any Reform Member
People and Culture Committee		
Chair	Cllr Bruce	Any Labour Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Walker	Any Green Member
Reform	Cllr Crashley	Any Reform Member
Finance and Resources Committee		
Chair	Cllr Davies	Any Conservative Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Dodds	Any Labour Member
Reform	Cllr Booth	Any Reform Member
Audit Committee		
Chair	Cllr Parnham	Any Labour Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Seary	Any Conservative Member
Reform	Cllr Thewlis	Any Reform Member
Community Safety Committee		
Chair	Cllr Fazal	Any Labour Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Ali	Any Independent Member
Reform	Cllr Hardie	Any Reform Member

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Agenda item: 09

Appointment of Independent Person 2026/27

Full Authority

Date: 25 September 2026

Submitted by: Director of Corporate Services

Purpose: To secure the appointment of an independent person pursuant to the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

Recommendations: That the appointment of Julie Byrom as the designated independent person from 28 September 2026 be approved.

Summary: The Localism Act 2011 required the Authority to approve the appointment of an "Independent Person" who must be consulted before any findings are made or action taken against a Member of the Authority who is accused of contraventions of the Code of Conduct. The current independent person has been in post for 4 years and their contract expired on 30 June 2026.

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: Jik Townson, Committee Services and Governance Officer
jik.townson@westyorkshire.gov.uk

Background papers open to inspection: None

Annexes: None

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the full Authority to approve the appointment of an “Independent Person” in connection with the determination of complaints against Members of the Authority who are accused of breaches of the Authority’s Code of Conduct.
- 1.2 The current Independent Person was originally appointed in July 2022 and reappointed in July 2024 for a further 2 year term of office which expired on 30 June 2026.

2. Information

- 2.1 The post has been advertised on the e-recruitment system and 1 applicant attended for interview

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The costs will be met from within existing budget provision

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority’s Constitution.

5. People and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 The appointment of the Independent Person complies with our People and Diversity policies.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? No

7. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

- 7.1 There are no health, safety and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

8. Environmental Implications

- 8.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report;

9. Risk Management Implications

- 9.1 There are risk management implications arising from this report

10. Duty to Collaborate Implications (Police and Crime Act 2017)

10.1 There are no duty to collaborate implications arising from this report

11. Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

11.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2025-28 strategic priorities below:

- Enhance the health, safety, and well-being of our people.
- Prioritise a people first mindset through ethical and professional leadership and management
- Use resources in an innovative, sustainable, and efficient manner to maximise value for money.
- Further develop a culture of excellence, equality, learning, and inclusion.

12. Conclusions

12.1 That under the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, Julie Byrom be appointed as the Independent Person from 20 September 2026 for an initial term of 2 years, or less should the Fire Authority be superseded by the transition under the Mayoral Combined Authority.

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Agenda item: 10

Calendar of Meetings 2026/27 Amendment

Full Authority

Date:	25 September 2026
Submitted by:	Director of Corporate Services
Purpose:	To consider an amendment to the approved calendar of meetings for 2026/27
Recommendations:	That the revised calendar of meetings 2026/27 be approved as detailed in Annex A to this report
Summary:	The annual calendar of meetings was agreed at the February meeting of the Full Authority. It is now proposed to amend the date of the November Audit Committee following a request from Grant Thornton (External Auditors).

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category:	None
Contact Officer:	Jik Townson Committee Services and Governance Officer Jik.townson@westyorkfire.gov.uk
Background papers open to inspection:	None
Annexes:	Proposed Calendar of Meetings 2026/27

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The programme of meetings for the 2026/27 municipal year was originally approved at the February 2026 meeting of the Full Authority

2. Information

- 2.1 Consideration has been given to the timeline for the completion of the audit of the Statement of Accounts and it is proposed to delay the Audit Committee to accommodate this. A new date of 12 noon on Friday 11 December 2026 is proposed.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution.

5. Human Resource and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct human resource or diversity implications arising from this report.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? No

7. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct health safety and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

8. Environmental Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report

9. Risk Management Implications

- 9.1 There are no Risk Management Implications arising from this report

10. Duty to Collaborate Implications (Police and Crime Act 2017)

- 10.1 There are no duties to collaborate identified in this report

11. Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

11.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2025-28 strategic priorities below:

- Enhance the health, safety, and well-being of our people.
- Prioritise a people first mindset through ethical and professional leadership and management
- Use resources in an innovative, sustainable, and efficient manner to maximise value for money.
- Further develop a culture of excellence, equality, learning, and inclusion.

12. Conclusions

12.1 It is recommended that members approve the amendment to the Committee Calendar 2026/27

West Yorkshire Fire And Rescue Authority

Programme of Meetings 2026 / 2027

Friday 10.30AM Audit Committee	Friday 10.30AM Community Safety Committee	Friday 10.30AM Finance and Resources Committee	Friday 10.30AM People and Culture Committee	Friday 12:00 Local Pension Board (Upon Rising Of P&C)	Friday 10.30AM Authority
31 July 2026	24 July 2026	17 July 2026	3 July 2026	3 July 2026	Friday 25 September 2026
11 December 2026 (12 noon or upon the rising of the Full Authority)	9 October 2026	16 October 2026	2 October 2026		Friday 11 December 2026
12 February 2027	22 January 2027	29 January 2027	5 February 2027	5 February 2027	Thursday 25 February 2027
23 April 2027	9 April 2027	16 April 2027	2 April 2027		Friday 18 June 2027 (AGM)

Bank hols Mon 31 Aug 2026, Xmas Fri 25 Dec 2026, Mon 28 Dec 2026, Fri 1 Jan 2026, Eid al Fitr Tues/Wed 9/10 Mar 2027, Good Fri 26 Mar 2027, Easter Mon 29 Mar 2027, Mon 3 May 2027, Mon 31 May 2027, Eid al-Adha Mon-Thur 17-20 May 2027, Mon 30 Aug 2027

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Agenda item: 11

Statement of Assurance 2025-26

Full Authority

Date: 25 September 2026

Submitted by: Director of Corporate Services

Purpose: To present Members with the annual Statement of Assurance 2025/26 for approval.

Recommendations: Members are requested to approve the Statement of Assurance 2025/26 as a valid assessment of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority's performance.

Summary: This report presents the annual Statement of Assurance 2025/26; the principal aim of which is to provide an accessible way in which communities, Government, local authorities and other partners may make a valid assessment of their local fire and rescue authority's performance.

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: Alison Davey- Head of Corporate Services
01274 682311
alison.davey@westyorksfire.gov.uk

Background papers open to inspection: Department for Communities and Local Government
Guidance on statements of assurance for fire and rescue authorities in England

Annexes: Statement of Assurance 2025-26

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Government is committed to unburdening local government, eliminating top-down bureaucracy and increasing local flexibility. For fire and rescue authorities, this ethos is demonstrated by the revised Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (the Framework), and in the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, which helps to let them run their services as they see fit.
- 1.2 This freedom and flexibility is accompanied by the need for accountability and transparency. Providing an excellent service is only the starting point – communities expect to know how their services are being provided.
- 1.3 It is against this background that the Framework sets out a requirement for fire and rescue authorities to publish Statements of Assurance. It says:
- 1.4 ‘Fire and rescue authorities must provide annual assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and show how they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their integrated risk management plan and the requirements included in the Framework’.

To provide assurance, fire and rescue authorities must publish an annual statement of assurance.

2. Information

- 2.1 Whilst the Government have issued ‘Guidance on statements of assurance for fire and rescue authorities in England’, it is for individual fire and rescue authorities to determine the best way for them to present the information with their communities in mind.
- 2.2 West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (WYFRA) consider that the majority of the information required to meet the aim of the Statement of Assurance is already provided in an accessible way in which communities, Government, local authorities and other partners may make a valid assessment of the Authority’s performance and, where this is the case, the attached Statement links to those documents.
- 2.3 The WYFRA’s Service Assurance Framework details the high-level expectations of the service relating to:
 - Compliance with the National Framework.
 - The assessment of performance via His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).
 - The annual completion of the Service Assurance process.
 - A comprehensive approach to the assurance of service delivery.

- 2.4 The Statement of Assurance will be used as a source of information on which to base the Secretary of State's biennial report under section 25 of the Fire and Rescue Act 2004 and is required to be signed off by an elected member of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. The Chair of the Authority is, therefore, requested to sign the statement on behalf of the Authority.
- 2.5 There is a requirement to publish the statement on an annual basis. The first statement was published in September 2013.
- 2.6 The Statement of Assurance for the year 2025/26 is attached to this report for Members to approve for signature by the Chair of the Authority and publication on the Authority's website.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution.

5. People and Culture and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 The Authority remains committed to diversity and inclusion and to maintaining the highest possible standards. It takes a pragmatic and focused approach towards delivery of its legal equality duties.
- 5.2 The National Fire and Rescue Service Framework is a tool which helps WYFRS set and deliver diversity and inclusion objectives. It enables the Authority to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and benchmark its equality performance against other Fire and Rescue Services.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? No

7. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

- 7.1 There are no health and safety implications arising from this report.

8. Environmental Implications

- 8.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

9. Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

9.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2025-28 strategic priorities below:

- Further develop a culture of excellence, equality, learning and inclusion
- Provide a safe, effective and resilient response to local and national emergencies
- Focus our activities on reducing risk and vulnerability
- Enhance the health, safety and wellbeing of our people
- Prioritise a people first mindset through ethical and professional leadership and management
- Work with partners and communities to deliver our services
- Use resources in an innovative, sustainable and efficient manner to maximise value for money

10. Conclusions

10.1 Members are requested to approve the Statement of Assurance 2025/26 as a valid assessment of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority's performance for signature by the Chair of the Authority prior to publication on the Authority's website.



West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Statement of Assurance 2025-26



Ownership:	Corporate Services
Date Issued:	September 2026
Protected:	OFFICIAL

Making West Yorkshire Safer
www.westyorksfire.gov.uk

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Foreword

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (WYFRA) is required to produce an annual Statement of Assurance as part of the [Fire and Rescue National Framework for England](#). The purpose of the statement is to provide independent assurance to communities and the Government that the service is being delivered efficiently and effectively. Whilst the Fire and Rescue National Framework sets out the Government's priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities in England, it does not prescribe operational matters as these are determined locally by fire and rescue authorities.

Fire and rescue authorities must provide annual assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and show how they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their community risk management plan and the requirements included in the Framework. To provide an accessible way in which communities, Government, local authorities and other partners may make a valid assessment of their local fire and rescue authority performance' *Home Office Guidance on Statements of Assurance for FRAs in England*

This Statement of Assurance provides assurance that WYFRA is providing an efficient, effective and value for money service to the community of West Yorkshire in its financial, governance and operational matters.

Overview of West Yorkshire

Our Resources

Our People



Our people
are our
greatest asset



Our Assets





Governance

WYFRA has an approved [constitution](#) which sets out how the Authority operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local citizens. Some of these processes are required by the law, while others are a matter for the Authority to determine.

The Authority is composed of 22 members, all of whom are a Councillor elected to one of the five constituent district councils within West Yorkshire: Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield. The overriding duty of Members of the Authority is to the whole community of West Yorkshire.

To strengthen Government arrangements and provide greater transparency and accountability, WYFRA has appointed an Independent Member to the Audit Committee in line with CIPFA 'good practice'.

Members have an approved [Code of Conduct](#) designed to ensure high standards in the way they undertake their duties and are required to comply with the [Principles of Public Life](#).

Codes of Conduct and Protocols included within the Constitution are:

- Code of Conduct for Members
- Officer Code of Conduct

- Member/Officer Relations and Procedural Protocol
- Officer Employment Procedure Rules
- Protocol regarding the use of Authority resources by Members
- [Compliments and Complaints Policy](#)
- [Whistleblowing Policy](#)

In accordance with the Code of Corporate Governance and pursuant to the corporate performance monitoring processes an annual [Corporate Health Report](#) is submitted to the Annual General Meeting of the Authority to enable Members to scrutinise and challenge performance. A [Performance Management Report](#) is also presented to each Full Authority meeting to enable ongoing performance monitoring, scrutiny and challenge.

Overview of WYFRS

We serve a population of more than two million people, spread over 783 square miles, providing emergency cover 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

There are over 1,400 people who work for WYFRS ensuring that we deliver the highest standards of prevention, protection, response and resilience to the communities of West Yorkshire. We have 938 whole-time firefighters, 140 on-call firefighters, 47 Fire Control operators, and 340 support colleagues, who all contribute daily to our ambition: 'Making West Yorkshire Safer'.

We operate out of 40 fire stations, located across the five districts: Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, and Wakefield.

We have 46 Emergency Fire Appliances, 4 Aerial Appliances, a Technical Rescue Unit and a number of resilience appliances available to ensure we are operationally ready whenever needed. We also host a suite of specialist resources that can be deployed anywhere in the UK, including high volume pumps, flood response, wildfire response, urban search and rescue, and response to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear hazards.

We work hand-in-hand with our communities to prevent fires and other emergencies, constantly striving to enhance safety and wellbeing. Our initiatives aim to mitigate risks to life, property, and the environment. The unwavering dedication and commitment of our colleagues has been instrumental in saving numerous lives across West Yorkshire.

WYFRA operates within a clearly defined statutory and policy framework and the key documents setting this out are:

- The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
- The Civil Contingencies Act 2004

- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- The Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) (England) Order 2007
- The Localism Act 2011
- The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018
- The Fire Safety Act 2021

In June 2025, Authority Members approved the [‘Your Fire and Rescue 2025-28’](#) document which is a three-year strategy aimed at identifying the key risks and challenges facing the communities of West Yorkshire, alongside our strategies to address them.

Your Fire and Rescue 2025-28 has been developed using the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) Fire Standard Methodology. By adopting this methodology, we ensure that our CRMP:

- Demonstrates how protection, prevention and response activities have and will be used collectively to prevent and/or mitigate fires and other incidents to reduce the impact on our community, firefighters and promotes economic well-being.
- Effectively consults and engages with our communities, FRS colleagues and stakeholders at appropriate stages of our community risk management planning process.
- Uses a robust risk analysis process to support evidenced, transparent and inclusive decision-making regarding resource deployment.
- Ensures resource deployment decisions are balanced against an assessment of internal and external resource availability and other key organisational influences that inform the overall strategic planning process.

Your Fire and Rescue 2025-28 includes:

- A compilation of foreseeable fire and rescue-related hazards.
- The deployment of resources for prevention, protection, and response measures.
- Our Service’s priorities, outlining how resources will be allocated to mitigate these risks.

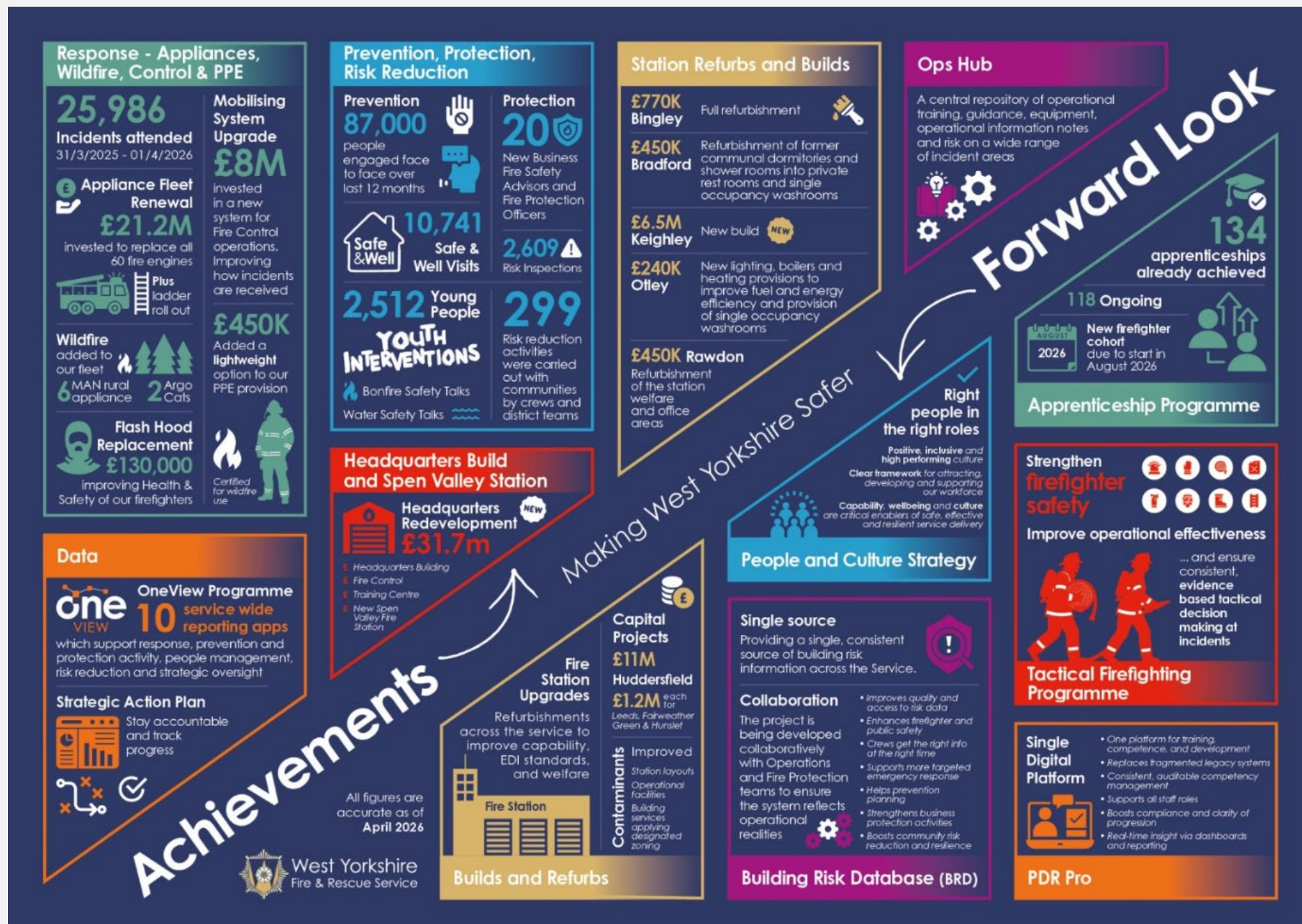
The ambition of West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service (WYFRS) is ‘Making West Yorkshire Safer’. To achieve this, we must identify and understand the current and future risks and challenges faced by our local communities.

Your Fire and Rescue 2025-28 sets out our strategic priorities for the next three years which are:

- Provide a safe, effective and resilient response to local and national emergencies.
- Focus our activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
- Enhance the health, safety, and well-being of our people.

- Prioritise a people first mindset through ethical and professional leadership and management.
- Work with partners and communities to deliver our services.
- Use resources in an innovative, sustainable, and efficient manner to maximise value for money.
- Further develop a culture of excellence, equality, learning, and inclusion.

Our Strategic Risk Assessment examines all potential and foreseeable risks allowing us to use planning, policies and decision making to mitigate them. WYFRA ensures that the Service has appropriate governance arrangements in place and that risk and performance are being effectively managed.



Our Services to the community

WYFRA discharges its statutory duties in relation to community safety, fire prevention and fire protection, including enforcement of relevant statutory regulations in accordance with the [WYFRS Protection Strategy 2025-28](#), [WYFRS Prevention Strategy 2025-28](#) and [WYFRS Response and Resilience Strategy 2025-28](#).

Operational Response

We use a data-driven approach to ensure our fire engines and specialist resources are located and staffed to provide the optimal level of emergency cover based on local risk. [Your Fire & Rescue Service 2025/28](#) includes our Risk Based Planning Assumptions (RBPA) for responding to emergencies. We continuously monitor our performance against risk-based planning assumptions to help us maintain a safe and effective response and assure the Authority we are continuing to provide a high level of service delivery.

Our Fire Control handles all 999 emergency calls, with operators assessing each call to determine the necessary emergency response. Fire Control dispatches the fire engine(s) or specialist resource(s) that can respond the quickest to the emergency.

The combination of our response time and the number of firefighters attending a fire is crucial. More serious and complex emergencies typically require more firefighters, a strategy we refer to as our 'speed and weight of attack'.

We aim to maintain the current number of fire stations and fire engines to preserve our existing 'speed and weight of attack'.

Each station operates a shift system based on the local community's risk level. Higher-risk areas are covered by wholetime (24/7) stations, while lower-risk areas are covered by on-call stations. Areas with intermediate risk levels have a combination of both, with day-crewed stations (working during the day and on-call at night).

Our 46 fire engines are equipped to handle most emergencies. For more complex emergencies, we have strategically located specialist resources available.

When a fire engine is unavailable due to an emergency or operational training, we have systems and procedures in place to relocate other fire engines to maintain a high standard of cover where it is most needed, according to risk.

Prevention

We raise awareness of risks to help prevent emergencies and reduce vulnerability. When not responding to incidents, our firefighters carry out prevention activities informed by data and intelligence, allowing us to adapt quickly at the district level. Complex situations are managed by specialist individuals working with partner agencies to lower community risk.

Resources are allocated according to risk factors, and prevention efforts focus on the most vulnerable. Our Corporate Communications Team promotes prevention campaigns to reach those most at risk. We also work with schools and community groups to educate young people about fire, road, and water safety.

Protection

Fire safety measures required by law are implemented and enforced to protect occupants in case of fire. The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 is enforced by competent and qualified officers appointed under the regulations which cover most buildings except single private homes.

Investment in the Fire Protection Team enables us to allocate adequate resources to ensure we are able to inspect premises in line with our Risk Based Intervention Programme. Inspecting officers are tasked with addressing new and emerging risks in West Yorkshire. Our Risk Based Intervention Programme utilises national guidance, and local data to focus resources on premises that pose the greatest risk to occupants during a fire.

The team consists of qualified fire safety officers who provide guidance, support, and investigate complaints regarding fire safety concerns. By applying enforcement and licensing procedures, steps are taken to improve safety standards in inspected premises.

We collaborate with local authorities and approved inspectors to consult on statutory Building Regulations consultations, ensuring the design of new buildings incorporate relevant fire safety measures.

Engagement with businesses assists them in meeting their fire safety obligations in accordance with the law. The introduction of Business Fire Safety Advisor roles aims to facilitate engagement with various businesses and build capacity for future needs. Progression paths from Advisor to Inspector contribute to sustaining the team's function.

Protection efforts concentrate mainly on premises assessed as higher risk, due either to building complexity or characteristics of occupancy. Attention is given to buildings with external wall defects requiring remediation, and cooperation occurs with local and national bodies to ensure timely correction of such defects.

The Fire Protection Team also enforces legislation concerning the storage of petroleum-spirit, explosives, and fireworks by issuing relevant certificates and licenses. Ongoing initiatives aim to reduce misuse of fireworks and to enhance related legislative and licensing frameworks.

Unwanted fire signals is a key area of work for the Protection team, having adopted a cost recovery policy for attendance of crews to persistent false alarms. The team have, together with changes to mobilising policy, had a significant impact on the number of false alarms we attend, with a substantial reduction in persistent false alarms over the past decade.

Resilience

Sections 13 and 16 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 provide clear instructions for fire and rescue services regarding mutual assistance and the discharge of functions by others. West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority have Section 13 and 16 agreements with:

- Lancashire Combined Fire Authority
- North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
- Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority

These agreements are regularly reviewed and updated as necessary and are supplemented by specific agreements on specialist services, for example, aerial appliances, and WYFRA is a major contributor to national and regional resilience with the capability to respond to major disasters and terrorist attacks. We maintain a full suite of National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) National Resilience specialist resources that can be deployed anywhere in the UK. Similarly, we can call upon specialist resources hosted elsewhere in the country to respond in West Yorkshire. We have agreements in place to share these resources when needed, and we consider our national commitments when making local plans.

Local Resilience Forum

We recognise that the causes and consequences of fires and other emergencies cannot be addressed by the Fire and Rescue Service alone. Therefore, working in partnership with other agencies is fundamental to how we deliver services at all levels and in all areas; partnership working is considered part of our core business.

As a member, WYFRS plays a key role in the West Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (West Yorkshire Prepared), established under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. West Yorkshire Prepared coordinates the actions and arrangements between responding services to prepare for and respond to civil emergencies. It also assists people and communities in recovering after adverse events. Our partners work collaboratively for the benefit of the communities we serve.

Collaboration and partnership working

We understand the benefits of collaboration and work closely with partners such as regional fire and rescue services, local authorities, emergency services, health teams, community groups, and voluntary organisations to identify and support the most vulnerable individuals in our communities.

By seeking out collaborative opportunities, we have been able to find possibilities to share estates with West Yorkshire Police and Yorkshire Ambulance Service. This has provided opportunities for joint training, combined community engagement opportunities and better multi-agency working. This collaborative effort supports more cohesive service delivery,

achieves better value for money, and facilitates more effective planning for emergencies and pre-planned events.

Service Delivery Performance

Performance against service delivery targets are reported to the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority on a regular basis, with the latest annual [Performance Management Report](#) submitted in June 2026.

OneView is West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service's centralised performance management and reporting platform. It is designed to improve data-driven and empowered decision-making across the organisation. It consolidates live operational, prevention and protection data into a single, accessible interface for all colleagues. OneView supports strategic oversight through dashboards, trend analysis and automated reporting. It enables teams to track incidents, manage risk, monitor sickness and absence, and improve data quality. With ongoing development in areas like PowerApps integration and further GIS support, OneView continues to evolve and enable the Service to drive digital transformation and operational efficiency. Comprehensive activity reports are generated to assess performance across the entire Service, ensuring transparent governance and effective performance monitoring. This approach streamlines the processes of data collection, reporting, and analysis.

The WYFRA's Service Assurance Framework details the high-level expectations of the Service relating to:

- Compliance with the National Framework.
- The assessment of performance via His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).
- The annual completion of the Service Assurance process.
- A comprehensive approach to the assurance of service delivery through our Reality Testing of incidents process.

This is summarised within the [Service Improvement and Assurance Report](#) and provides assurance that the organisation is performing effectively and efficiently.

Enabling our Services

Our enabling functions deliver crucial services across multiple areas, playing a vital role in the effective delivery of our Service. They provide the specialist support, advice, systems and governance that allow our operational teams to focus on protecting communities, reducing risk and responding effectively when people need us most.

These teams help to keep the organisation running safely, efficiently and professionally. Their work underpins everything from how we manage our people, finances, buildings, vehicles and

technology, through to how we communicate, learn, improve and assure ourselves that we are meeting the needs of the public.

By working closely with operational colleagues, partners and communities, our enabling functions support better decision-making, strengthen resilience and help the Service continue to develop for the future.

- Committee Services
- Corporate Communications
- Corporate Services
- Digital Data and Technology
- Employee Resourcing
- Finance and Procurement
- People and Culture
- Legal Services
- Occupational Health, Safety and Wellbeing
- Organisational Development and Learning
- Estates
- Service Improvement and Assurance
- Strategic Development
- Transport and Logistics

We employ around 1,400 well-trained, diverse and dedicated colleagues who work every day to promote safety and wellbeing, reduce risk and support communities across West Yorkshire. Our people are central to achieving our ambition of making West Yorkshire safer, whether they work in operational roles, enabling functions, specialist teams or leadership positions.

We recognise the crucial role our workforce plays in delivering excellent services and supporting our communities. As one of the country's leading Fire and Rescue Services, we are committed to investing in our people, developing their skills, supporting their wellbeing and creating a workplace where everyone feels valued, respected and able to perform at their best.

Our People and Culture Strategy provides the strategic framework for how we will continue to strengthen, support and prepare our organisation for the future. It aligns with the Service's wider aims and priorities, ensuring we have the right people, with the right skills, values and behaviours, in the right roles at the right time. The strategy is structured around five pillars, which

place people at the heart of everything we do and help us take an evidence-based approach to improving culture, leadership, wellbeing, learning and the employee experience:

- People and Resourcing
- High-performing, Inclusive Culture
- Health, Safety, Wellbeing and Resilience
- Skilled, Ambitious and Professional People
- Digital Transformation of People-Related Activity

Communication and Engagement

WYFRS ensures robust communication and engagement through a multi-layered approach that brings together formal consultation, internal dialogue, employee engagement, partnership working and community outreach. This ensures that communication is not treated as a standalone activity, but as an important part of how the service listens, explains decisions, supports change and maintains trust with colleagues, communities and partners.

WYFRS follows the Government Consultation Principles 2018, ensuring that all engagement is clear, purposeful, targeted and inclusive. Consultation activity is designed to give people meaningful opportunities to understand proposals, share their views and influence future plans, particularly where decisions may affect local communities, service delivery, colleagues or partners.

WYFRS has embedded the NFCC Communication and Engagement Fire Standard by:

- Adopting a strategic communications and engagement approach, including consultation, that clearly defines how the service communicates with colleagues, communities and stakeholders. This supports delivery of our Strategic Priorities, reflects our Values and aligns with the Core Code of Ethics by promoting openness, transparency and trust.
- Ensuring leadership actively supports and models effective communication and engagement by setting clear expectations, explaining the reasons behind decisions, encouraging two-way dialogue and creating opportunities for colleagues to ask questions, raise issues and contribute ideas.
- Making communication and engagement responsibilities clear to all employees, so everyone understands their role in sharing information, listening to feedback, escalating concerns and representing the service positively with colleagues, partners and the public.
- Maintaining a skilled and well-resourced communications function that:
 - Responds to crises and emergencies in coordination with resilience partners.
 - Plans and delivers proactive, targeted internal and external communications.

- Conducts meaningful engagement and consultation activities.
- Provides resilient out-of-hours arrangements for managing communications during emergencies and supporting the incident command teams in attendance.
- Delivers consistent inclusive and accessible communications, recognising the diverse needs of our people and our communities.
- Evaluates communication and engagement efforts, assessing outcomes and identifying lessons to improve future practice through effective, comprehensive evaluation and debriefing.

WYFRS also uses communication to shape organisational culture and strategic direction through internal messaging, sharing success, supporting change and encouraging open dialogue around expected values, behaviours and leadership. This helps colleagues understand not only what is happening across the service, but why it matters and how their role contributes to wider improvement. Communication and engagement activity is also reviewed through feedback, evaluation and learning, helping the service understand what has worked well, where messages have landed effectively and where future engagement can be strengthened.

Information Governance

Information governance describes the approach within which accountability, standards, policies, and procedures are developed and implemented, to ensure that all information created, obtained, or received by WYFRS is held and used appropriately.

The Authority has developed and implemented a robust information governance framework for the effective management and protection of information held by WYFRS. The Authority's commitment to this is publicised through the Information Governance Statement as endorsed by the Chief Fire Officer and made available on the WYFRS website.

There is an Information Governance Framework and an Information Risk Policy which sets out how this is achieved.

The Authority has a designated statutory Data Protection Officer (DPO) and a Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) who ensures legal compliance with data protection requirements.

Data Protection audits are carried out across the Service with the responsible Information Asset Owners and via departments self-assessing against relevant criteria as part of the Service Assurance process. This ensures accountability and that appropriate arrangements are in place with actions carried out to ensure continuous improvement.

The Authority has an [Information Governance Strategy and Policy](#) which describes its commitment to ensuring effective information governance as a means to enable the Service to ensure it can make the best use of its information and to provide a solid foundation to enable it to be open and transparent.

At the same time, it takes account of and supports WYFRA's operational objectives and ensures that a balance is struck between operational and compliance objectives.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on 25 May 2018, extending the privacy rights granted to EU individuals. The GDPR placed many new obligations upon organisations that process personal data. The Data Protection Act 2018 incorporated the GDPR and brought it into UK law. The Data Use and Access Act 2025 amends, but does not replace, the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR).

WYFRA introduced a structured approach to Information Security (IS) aligned with ISO 27001 and His Majesty's Government Security Policy Framework. This approach includes regular information governance audits, access permission reviews, mandatory data security training, and ongoing communication of data protection advice.

The strategic Information Governance and Security Group (IGSG) and the operational Corporate Information Management Group (CIMG) promote information governance standards across all departments. Regular reviews and updates to policies ensure compliance with data protection regulations.

WYFRA utilises the Information Commissioner's Office Accountability Framework self-assessment, demonstrating strong adherence to GDPR. The continual use of Data Protection Impact Assessments and internal communications support data protection and security responsibilities across the Service.

All information security incidents are monitored, and colleagues are required to report incidents to mitigate risks. The Records Retention Schedule is regularly reviewed and updated, ensuring good records management and not keeping information for longer than necessary.

In summary, WYFRA's comprehensive Information Governance Framework and proactive measures ensure effective information management, legal compliance, and risk mitigation, fostering transparency and operational efficiency across the organisation.

Risk and Business Continuity

WYFRA has a [Risk Management Strategy and Policy](#) and [Business Continuity Management Strategy and Policy](#) which provide clear and defined strategies to be implemented, adhered to and developed to aid achievement of the following objectives:

- Implement and maintain risk policy arrangements including a risk framework and processes, which will enable the organisation to identify, assess and manage strategic and corporate risks in an effective, systematic and consistent manner. This also assists in embedding a risk management culture.

- Implement and maintain a business continuity management system to ensure that key services can be maintained in the event of any disruption that threatens the delivery of services to the community of West Yorkshire.
- Protect the organisation from disruptive events and service interruptions and facilitate a co-ordinated recovery of organisational services and critical functions during and following such events.

An update on risk and business continuity is provided at each quarterly Audit Committee meeting, and a full report on progress and future developments is provided on an annual basis.

In line with the Risk Management Strategy/Policy and the Business Continuity Strategy/Policy, WYFRS will continue to review and develop arrangements in these areas where benefit, effectiveness and further good practice can be achieved.

In early 2025 a comprehensive review commenced in relation to all corporate, strategic and operational foreseeable risk arrangements, registers, documents and processes within WYFRS. This review will also consider how other fire and rescue services, emergency services and organisations manage their risk arrangements with the aim to have any revised/additional arrangements in place late 2026.

Customer Service Excellence

Since 1998, WYFRA has consistently attained the Charter Mark standard; the Government's national standard of customer service excellence for organisations delivering public services. In August 2009 the Authority invited an assessment against the new Customer Service Excellence standard, which was being phased in, and which has now fully replaced the Charter Mark standard. The Customer Service Excellence standard is derived from the core concepts of customer focus and the delivery of excellent customer service and assesses, in great detail, the following areas:

- Customer Insight
- The Culture of the Organisation
- Information and Access
- Delivery
- Timeliness and Quality of Service

WYFRA has an independent assessment against the standard annually and in 2025 was awarded full compliance against the 57 elements of the standard including 40 'Compliance Plus' awards, which are awarded for behaviours or practices that exceed the requirements of the standard and are viewed as exceptional or as an exemplar for others – either within the organisation or in the wider public service arena. The summary of the [Customer Service](#)

[Excellence report](#) clearly demonstrates the continuous commitment of the Authority to provide an excellent service to customers.

Financial

In accordance with the 2025/26 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for 2025/26 and the Accounting Codes of Practice published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), WYFRA has produced the [Statement of Accounts 2025/26](#) (the accounts are subject to final audit by Grant Thornton). As the Authority is funded by public money, it has a responsibility to ensure this money is used lawfully, effectively, efficiently, and economically.

Although the audit of the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts was completed and approved within the audit back stop deadline of the 27 February 2026, these were modified with a qualification in respect of the comparatives and opening balances due to the lack of a full audit of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts by our previous auditors, Deloitte LLP.

Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice there is a requirement for the auditor, Grant Thornton, to consider whether an Authority has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, effectiveness and efficiency in its use of resources. This is presented in a separate Value for Money report which is required to be completed three months after the audit of the Statement of Accounts is complete. The 2024/25 Value for Money resulted in a positive outcome with no recommendations for improvements. The 2025/26 Value for Money audit will be presented to the Audit Committee in December 2026.

The [Annual Governance Statement](#), which is included within the Statement of Accounts, sets out the systems and procedures that are in place to ensure that the Authority's resources are used in accordance with the law and provide best value for the taxpayer.

The Authority's governance framework comprises systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which the Authority is directed and controlled. It enables the Authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.

The Medium-Term Financial Plan which was approved by the Full Authority in February 2025 shows that the Authority has a balanced budget for 2025/26. Fire Authorities in England were given powers by the Secretary of State to increase the precept by £5 for a Band D property without the need to hold a referendum. The increase in precept generated an additional £4.195m precept income from 2024/25 which enabled the Authority to add growth to the revenue budget. West Yorkshire remains the fourth lowest precepting fire authority in England with a Band D property charge of £84.49.

In terms of Central Government funding, the Authority received another one-year financial settlement in 2025/26. In addition, the Authority received additional grants to fund work relating to Building Safety Reform and Fire Protection.

The Authority has healthy reserves that can be used to support the revenue budget with a general fund balance of £5.7m and earmarked reserves of £24.674m on the 1st of April 2025.

Internal Audit

The Authority's Director of Finance and Procurement has a statutory duty to provide a continuous and effective internal audit. This internal audit service is provided under a service level agreement with Kirklees Council, which provides approximately 160 days of audit time each year.

Internal Audit assesses the adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's risk management system and internal control environment against an annual audit plan. The plan targets areas of highest risk as determined by the Authority through its risk management process and the resulting risk management matrix. Auditing these risks accounts for approximately half of the available audit resource, with the other half involving the review of key financial systems and processes. The internal audit plan also considers audit areas where most value can be added.

Internal audit 'opinions' based on the level of assurance concerning each risk, system or process control is reported to the Authority's Audit Committee on a quarterly basis. The Internal Audit Plan 2025/26 resulted in eleven audits being completed during the year, all audits concluded with either a 'substantial' or 'adequate' assurance. This confirms that a robust framework of all key controls is in operation. Internal Audit provides recommendations where it is thought that risks can be reduced, and the control environment improved.

The audit plan and subsequent audits ensure an independent review is conducted at least once in a year of the effectiveness of the Authority's systems of internal control, which assists with the formulation of the Annual Governance Statement.

Information Transparency

In accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code 2015, WYFRA is committed to greater openness and financial transparency through the publication, on the WYFRS website, of information regarding local decision making and how public money is being spent. This includes payments for goods and services to external bodies and suppliers above £500, details of salaries and allowances paid to colleagues and Members, transactions made via Government Procurement Cards, tender and procurement information, details of land and assets owned by WYFRA and details relating to Trade Unions. We ensure that the publication of any data complies with the Data Protection Act. All data is as accurate as possible at time of publication.

The data is routinely published on either a quarterly or annual basis in accordance with the requirements of the Code. All published data can be viewed on the Data Transparency section of the website.

The Authority makes information publicly available and promotes a spirit of openness and accessibility adopting an approach of making information available and a commitment to sharing

information whenever it is appropriate in line with legislation. This commitment is described in the Access to Information Policy.

Future Improvements

We are committed to continuous learning, adaptation, and improvement in all our activities. Our dedication to excellence is unwavering, and we are constantly exploring new methodologies and incorporating feedback to refine our processes.

By embracing innovation and best practices, we aim to stay ahead of emerging challenges and ensure that our services remain effective and responsive to the needs of West Yorkshire. We conduct regular training sessions for our colleagues to enhance their skills and knowledge, allowing them to better serve our community. Furthermore, we invest in advanced technologies and tools that enable us to perform our duties with greater precision and efficiency.

In our pursuit of continuous improvement, we make it a priority to engage with the community, gathering their insights and concerns to better understand their needs.

This collaborative approach ensures that our strategies and initiatives are aligned with the expectations of those we serve. We also work closely with partner agencies and stakeholders, fostering strong relationships that contribute to a coordinated and comprehensive approach to public safety.

Our services are funded by the taxpayer; we have a legal duty to ensure the services we provide offer value for money and meet the requirements of an ever-changing society.

WYFRA's annual budget for 2026/27 is £123.168 million and we are committed to delivering the best affordable service for our communities.

By implementing smarter working practices and introducing an improved budget management system, we have achieved a balanced budget. This means our expenditure matches our funding, eliminating the need to use any of our reserves. Additionally, we continuously seek ways to optimise our resources and improve efficiency, ensuring that we can maintain high standards of service while being fiscally responsible. Our Community Risk Management Plan, Medium-Term Financial Plan and Workforce Plan are now aligned, and a range of financial planning scenarios have been produced which ensures a joined-up approach to the analysis of risk and the deployment of resources. Following budget approval, we recently increased firefighter numbers to enable us to provide increased capacity within our operational response service.

Our [Efficiency and Productivity Plan](#) details how West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority aims to deliver efficiencies and increase productivity, and demonstrates how we add social and economic value through our response to fire and non-fire emergencies and through our daily risk reduction activity.

Risk-Based Prevention, Protection, and Response

- Targeted campaigns in high-risk areas using demographic segmentation and fire risk mapping.
- Enhanced Safe and Well visits and community education to improve public understanding of fire safety.

Digital Transformation and Smarter Working

- Digital Foundations - Focusing on creating secure, resilient and modern digital infrastructure.
- Digital Platforms – Focused on modernising systems and maximising value from technology investments.
- Digital Organisation – Aims to build digital capability and improve the way DDaT works with the wider service.
- Data driven – Focused on using data more effectively to support decision making and performance management.
- Digital Innovation - Focused on leveraging emerging technologies and new ways of working.

Workforce Development and Culture

- Implementation of the new people and culture strategy to embed WYFRS values, reduce absence, and improve engagement.
- Ongoing leadership development through apprenticeships and training in diversity, coaching, and safer recruitment.

Efficiency and Productivity

Efficiency is reinforced through:

- Collaborative procurement via the Yorkshire and Humber regional group.
- Use of national framework agreements to maximise value for money.
- Strategic use of reserves and capital financing to support transformation without compromising service delivery.

WYFRS has embedded a benefits realisation framework to track the impact of change initiatives:

- Identify and implement efficiency opportunities.
- Monitor both cashable and non-cashable benefits.

Partnership and Resilience

- Active role in the West Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum to coordinate emergency planning and response.
- Collaboration with police and ambulance services through the Violence Reduction Hub.

Governance and Assurance

WYFRS is actively refining its governance model to further deliver transparency, accountability, and strategic coherence. A key priority is the development of a more integrated and visible governance structure that:

- Clarifies decision-making pathways across teams and boards.
- Enhances transparency and accountability for colleagues at all levels.
- Reduces the disconnect between strategic intent and operational delivery.

WYFRS is developing its approach to organisational assurance as a single, joined-up process that looks across both operational activity and the wider service. This helps the organisation understand how well it is delivering, where improvement is needed, and whether learning is being captured and acted upon consistently.

Operational assurance focuses on how effectively operational activity is planned, delivered and reviewed, including incident assurance, training and exercising, reality testing, and alignment with National Operational Guidance and Fire Standards.

Wider service assurance considers the effectiveness of corporate and enabling functions, including self-assessment, internal audit, HMICFRS inspection readiness, governance, performance, risk management and alignment with the Fire and Rescue National Framework.

This Statement of Assurance is signed on 25 September 2026 on behalf of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

Councillor Ryk Downes
Chair of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority

OFFICIAL

Agenda item: 12

Performance Management Report

Full Authority

Date:	25 September 2026
Submitted by:	Director of Corporate Services
Purpose:	To inform Members of the Authority's performance against key performance indicators.
Recommendations:	That Members note the report.
Summary:	This report provides Members with information regarding the performance of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service against targets to enable the Authority to measure, monitor and evaluate performance.

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category:	None
Contact Officer:	Alison Davey – Head of Corporate Services Email: alison.davey@westyorksfire.gov.uk Tel: 01274 682311
Background papers open to inspection:	None
Annex:	Performance Management Report from 1 April 2026 to 13 September 2026.

Introduction

- 1.1 The attached Performance Management Report outlines the Authority's performance against key performance indicators thereby enabling the Authority to measure, monitor and evaluate performance.

2. Information

- 2.1 The reports show a summary of the cumulative performance for the period 1 April 2026 to 13 September 2026 against each of the indicators.
- 2.2 The Performance Management Report is monitored at each Full Authority meeting.
- 2.3 An abridged version of the Performance Management Report is presented quarterly to the Audit Committee highlighting where targets are not being achieved.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution.

5. People and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 There are no People and Diversity implications arising from this report.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? No

7. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

- 7.1 There are no health, safety and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

8. Environmental Implications

- 8.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

9. Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

9.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2025-28 strategic priorities below:

- Further develop a culture of excellence, equality, learning and inclusion
- Provide a safe, effective and resilient response to local and national emergencies
- Focus our activities on reducing risk and vulnerability
- Enhance the health, safety and wellbeing of our people
- Prioritise a people first mindset through ethical and professional leadership and management
- Work with partners and communities to deliver our services
- Use resources in an innovative, sustainable and efficient manner to maximise value for money

10. Conclusions

10.1 That Members note the report.



West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Performance Management Report

Fire Authority



Making West Yorkshire Safer
www.westyorksfire.gov.uk

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Non-fires
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Fire Related Injuries
Attacks on Firefighters
Response Times
Safe and Wells
SSRI

This report provides a summary of our progress across the Service based on the date ranges below.

Period Covered:

Financial Year	2026-27	
Date Range	01 April 2026	13 September 2026

IMPORTANT: The data provided is based on incident reports that have been completed and/or checked but will not include data from incident reports which have not been completed. Data may change due to incident reports that have been updated due to amendment. The data is accurate at time of creation of the report.

This report is comparing the date range above against:

Previous Year Comparison Date Range	01 April 2025	13 September 2025
3 Year Average Comparison Period	01 April 2025 01 April 2024 01 April 2023	13 September 2025 13 September 2024 13 September 2023
Colour Key	Positive Arrows Positive Charts Negative Arrows Negative Charts *When doing a comparison the key above is used. In all other cases graphs, charts and visuals are using contrasting colours to support accessibility.	

Due to seasonality **Previous Year** and **3 Year Average** comparison are based on selected range and not the whole of the previous year.

Performance Summary

Arrows display percentage(%) increase/decrease on previous year to current financial year.
The comparison range is based on selected date range.

This report is comparing:01 April 2026
Against:01 April 2025

13 September 2026
13 September 2025

Total Incidentstotal13550-5%

Fire Related Fatalities7133%

Accidental Dwelling Fires408-10%

Safe and Well Visits4462-9%

Fires6305-13%

Fire Related Injuries688%

Deliberate Fires3689-15%

False Alarms50285%

Malicious False Alarms1165%

Non-domestic Building Fires125-35%

Non-fires22171%

Road Traffic Collisions249-4%

Response Times Met89%-0.3 %

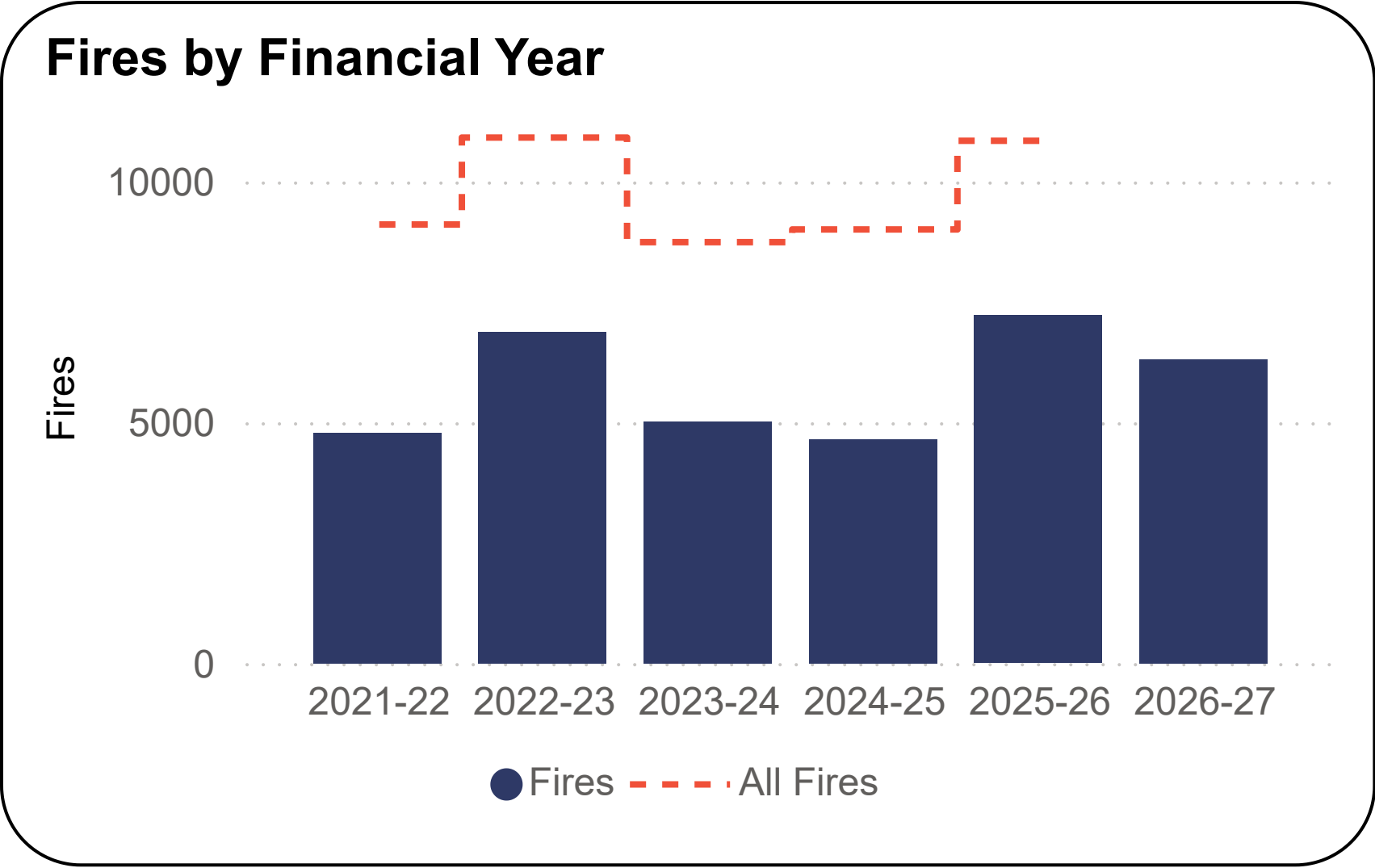
Incident Demand by Time of Day

Day	08:00-08:59	09:00-09:59	10:00-10:59	11:00-11:59	12:00-12:59	13:00-13:59	14:00-14:59	15:00-15:59	16:00-16:59	17:00-17:59	18:00-18:59	19:00-19:59	20:00-20:59	21:00-21:59	22:00-22:59	23:00-23:59	00:00-00:59	01:00-01:59	02:00-02:59	03:00-03:59	04:00-04:59	05:00-05:59	06:00-06:59	07:00-07:59
Mon	38	65	94	70	75	96	96	116	131	123	134	159	157	140	105	75	55	42	38	39	36	21	22	37
Tue	51	61	82	92	98	81	85	90	99	132	137	142	140	112	97	65	68	50	42	33	22	15	26	42
Wed	54	62	64	79	87	87	98	105	115	118	160	141	146	112	99	69	65	58	41	32	26	24	35	38
Thu	51	64	78	85	77	93	88	99	133	122	132	135	145	103	98	82	65	54	42	29	24	26	33	34
Fri	45	74	65	94	86	89	94	118	115	115	126	154	166	145	104	84	53	46	38	26	35	28	38	37
Sat	52	66	69	70	71	92	109	109	157	127	139	140	142	134	87	75	64	66	26	31	32	26	26	42
Sun	39	49	74	71	77	99	105	115	133	135	155	173	143	128	84	84	67	52	54	45	19	32	29	28

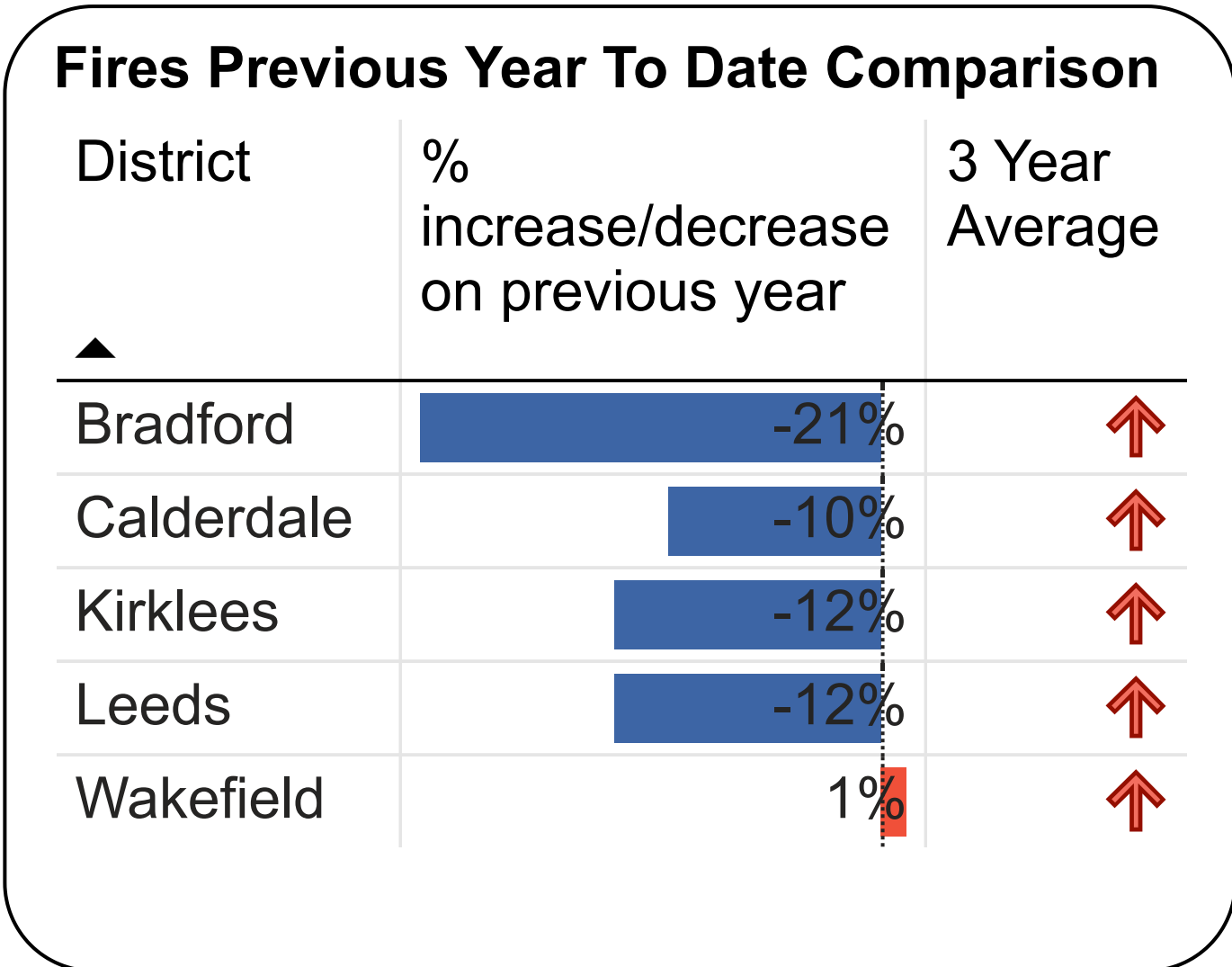
Fires

01 April 2026

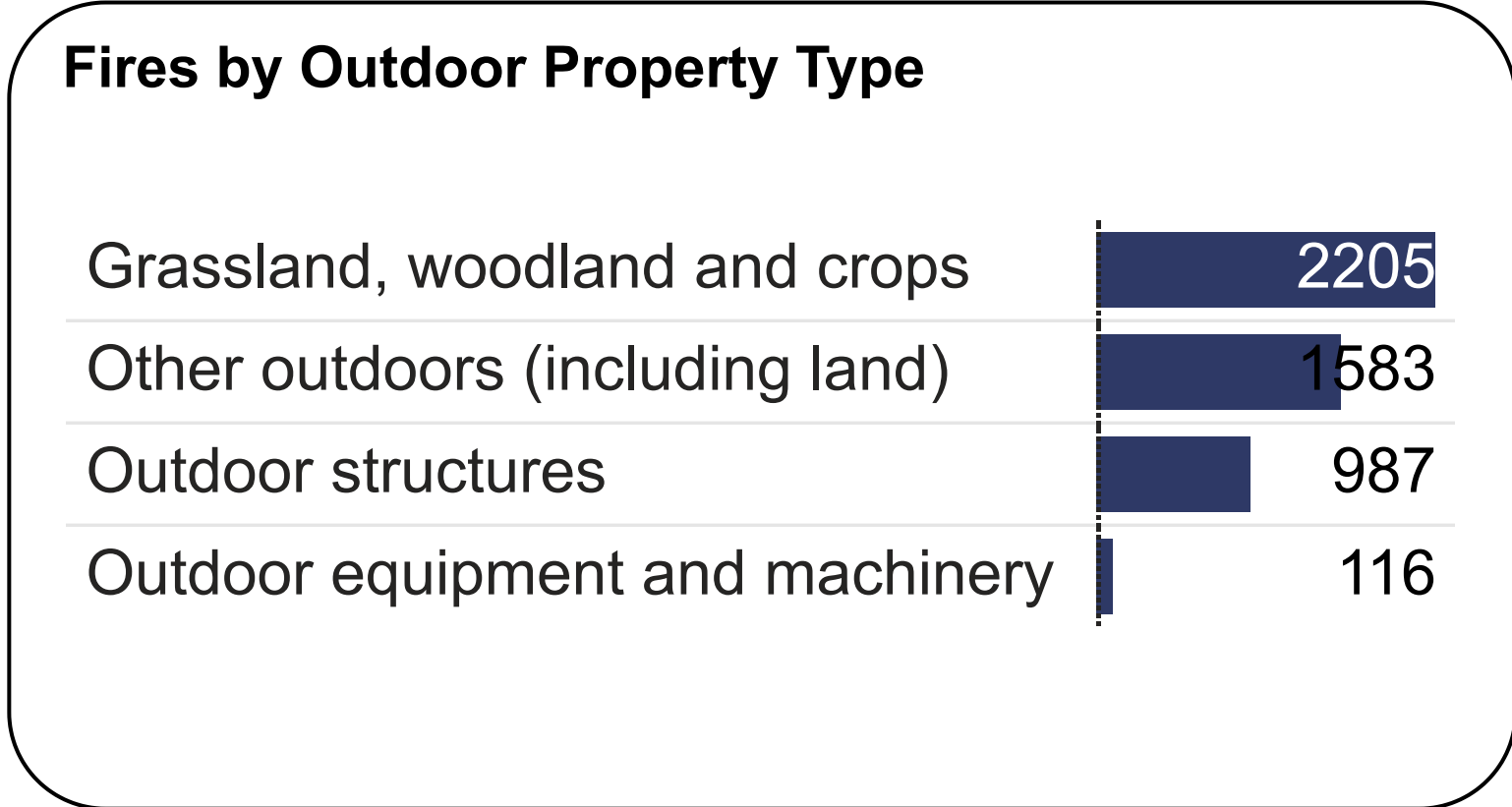
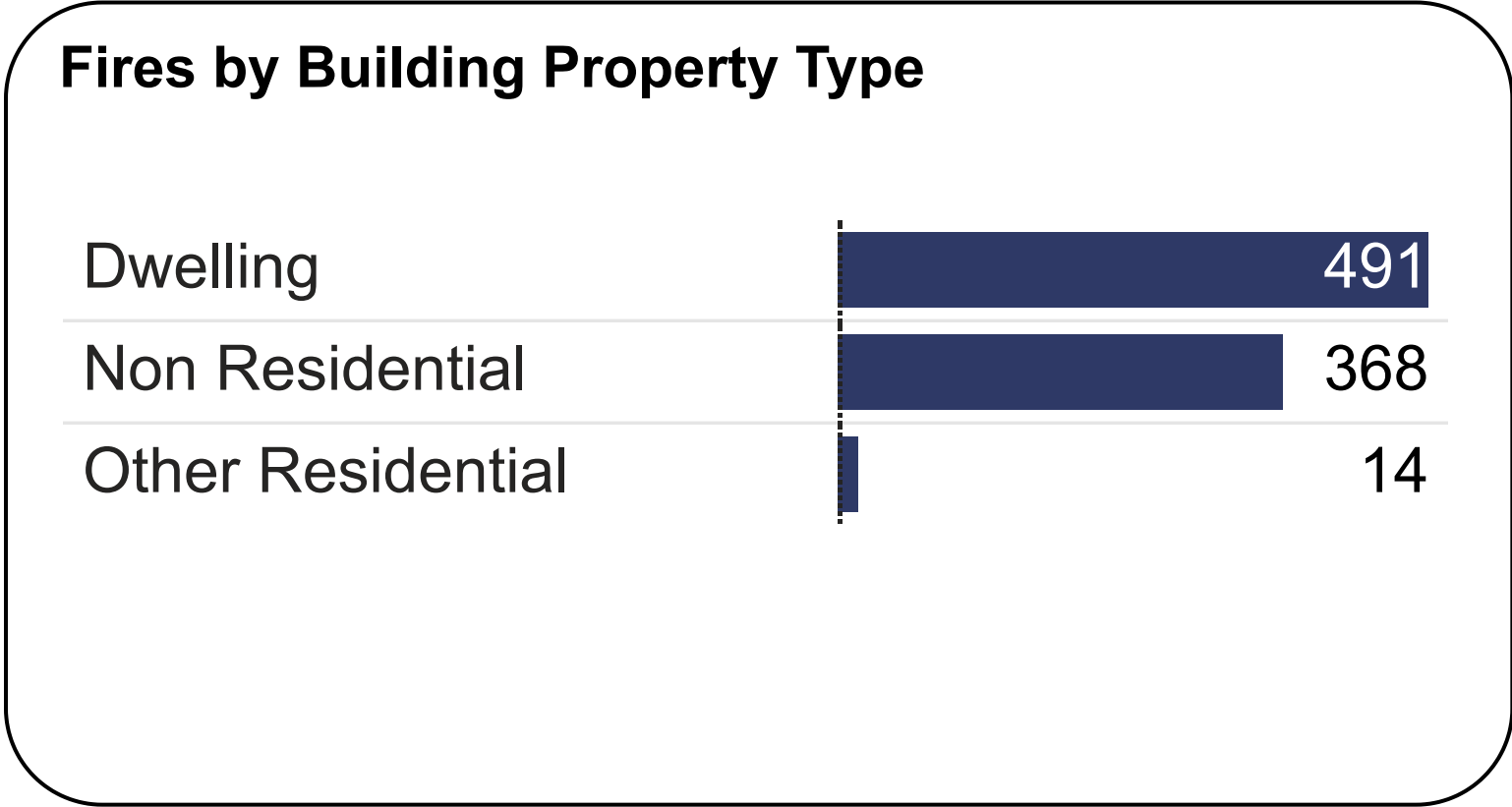
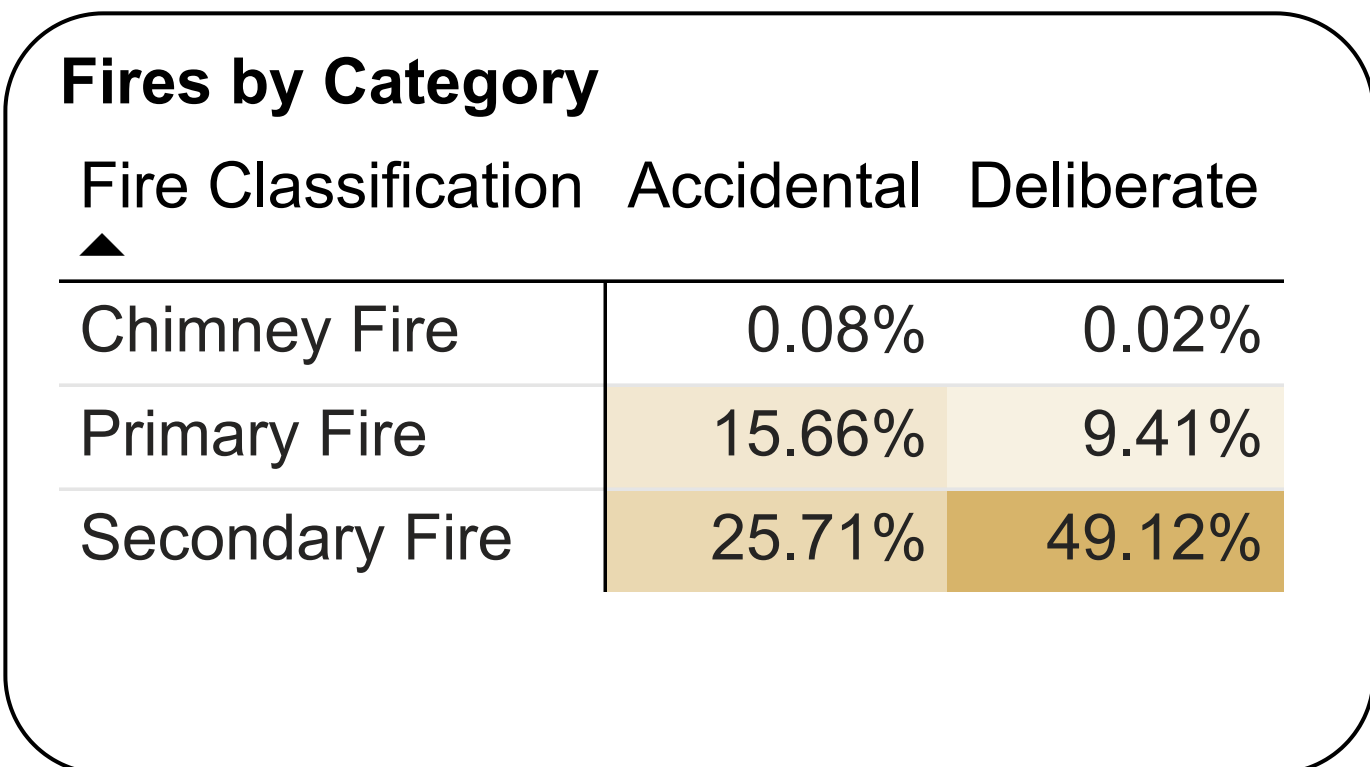
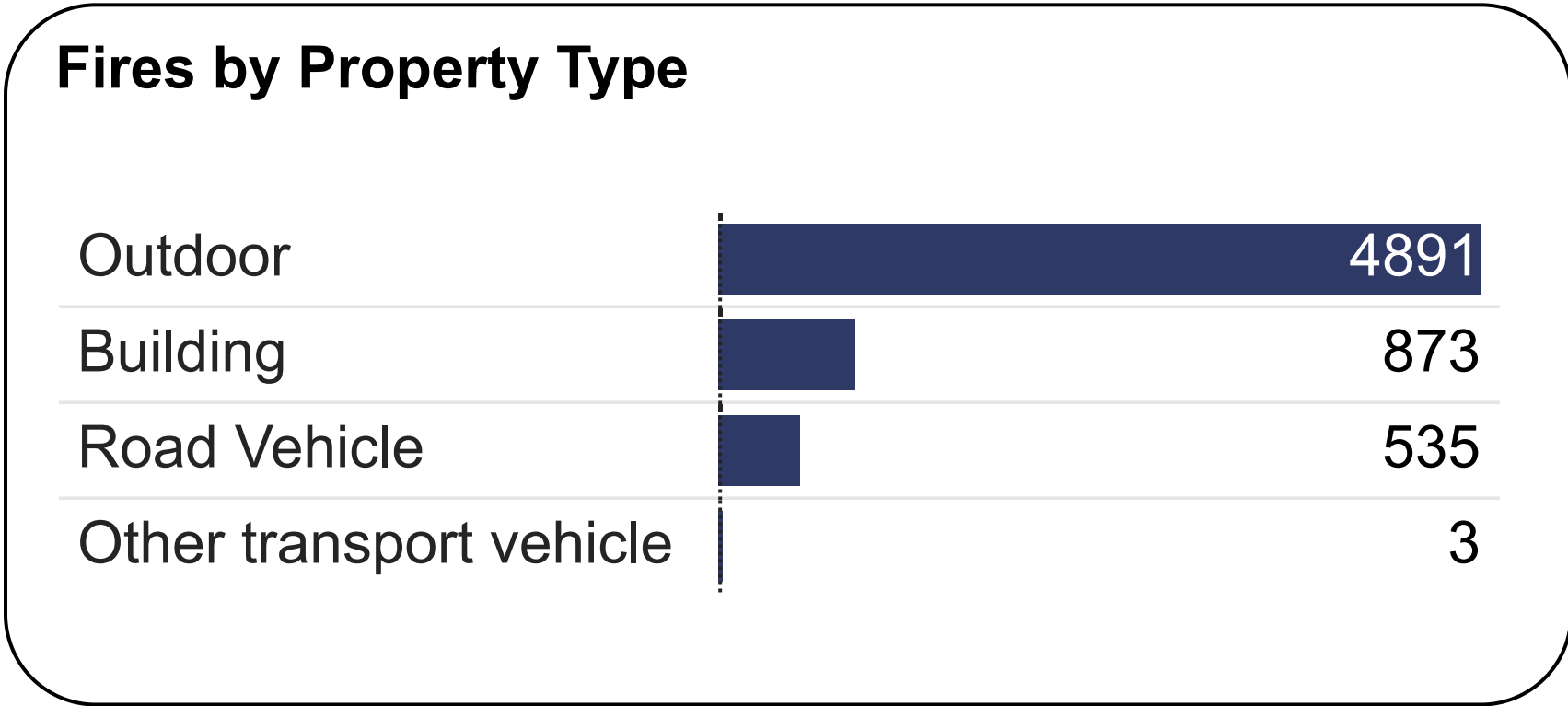
13 September 2026



All Fires (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.
The bars show the value for selected date range.



3 Year average indicator shows if current number of Fires this financial year is an increase/decrease of fires against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

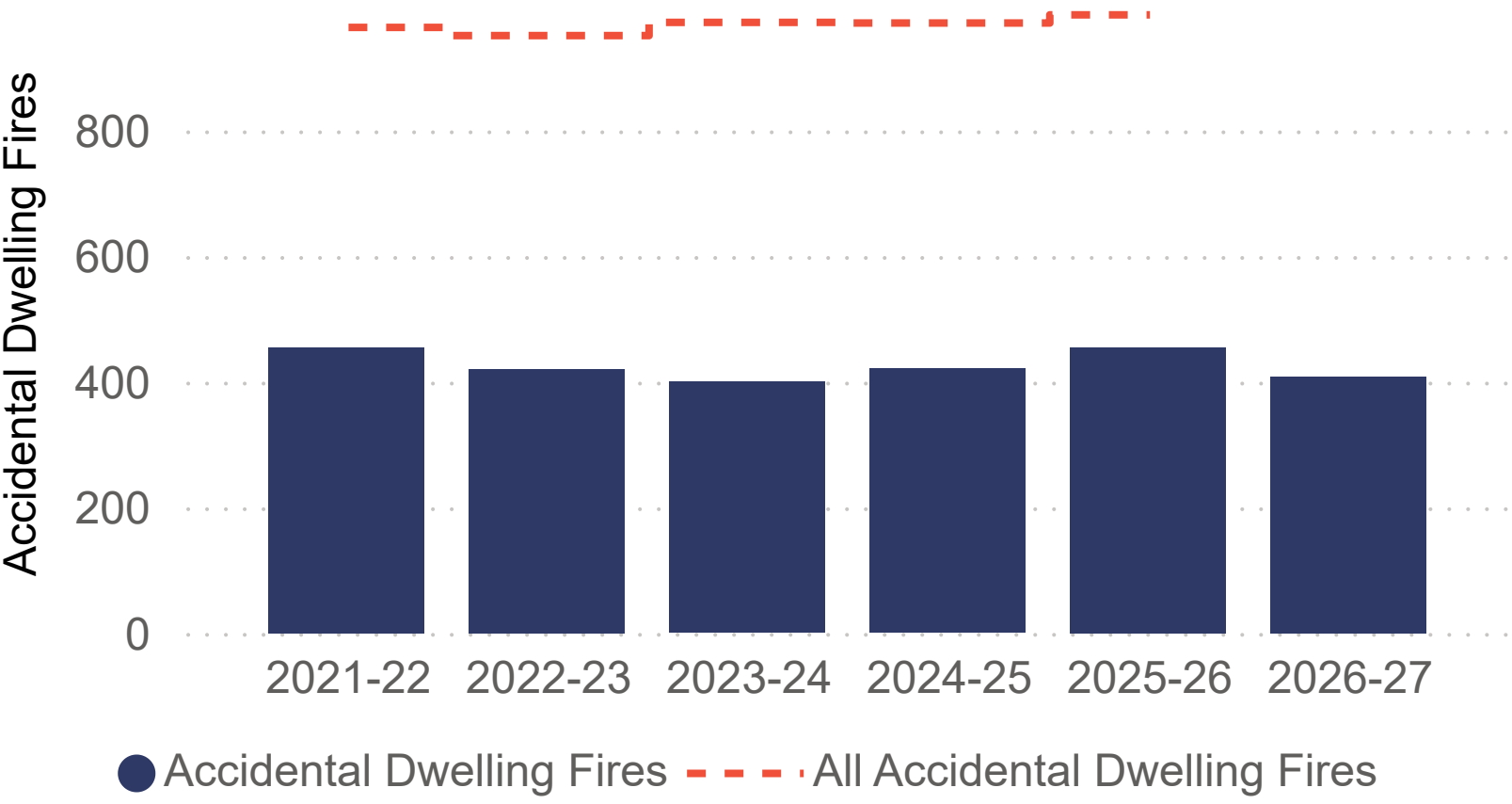


Accidental Dwelling Fires

01 April 2026

13 September 2026

Accidental Dwelling Fires by Financial Year



All ADF (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.
The bars show the value for selected date range.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Previous Year To Date Comparison

District	% increase/decrease on previous year		3 Year Average
Bradford	-13%		↓
Calderdale	23%		↑
Kirklees	-29%		↓
Leeds	-8%		↓
Wakefield	-4%		↑

3 Year average indicator shows if current number of ADF this financial year is an increase/decrease of ADF against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

Accidental Dwelling Fires by Property Type

House - single occupancy	266
Purpose Built Flat/Maisonette - multiple occupancy	75
Converted Flat/Maisonette - multiple occupancy	22
Self contained Sheltered Housing	19
Licensed HMO	13
Bungalow - single occupancy	8
Unknown if licensed HMO	2
Houseboat (permanent dwelling)	1
Other Dwelling	1
Unlicensed HMO	1

Top Fire Cause

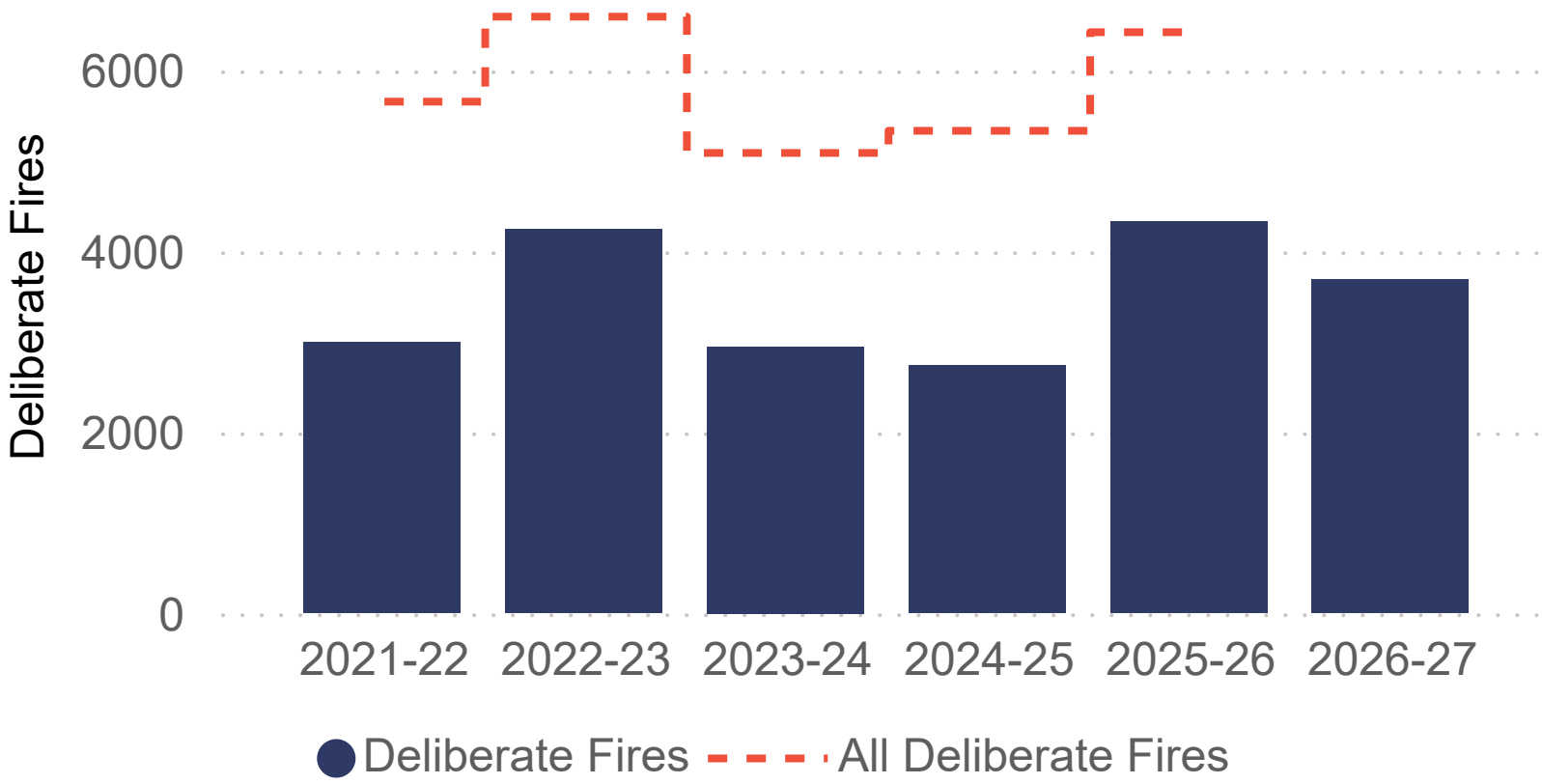
Accidental - Cooking - other cooking

Deliberate Fires

01 April 2026

13 September 2026

Deliberate Fires by Financial Year



All Deliberate Fires (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year. The bars show the value for selected date range.

Deliberate Fires Previous Year To Date Comparison

District	% increase/decrease on previous year	3 Year Average
Bradford	-25%	↑
Calderdale	-3%	↑
Kirklees	-21%	↑
Leeds	-15%	↑
Wakefield	24%	↑

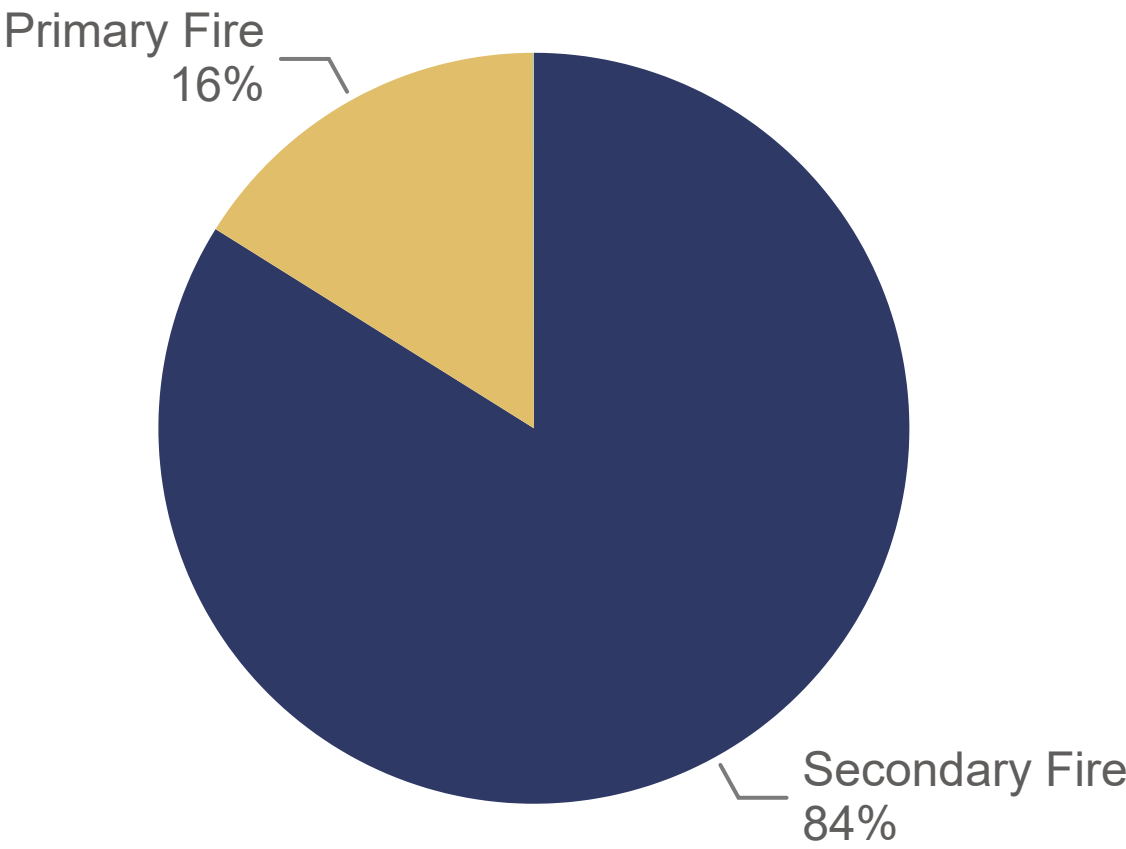
3 Year average indicator shows if current number of Deliberate Fires this financial year is an increase/decrease of Deliberate Fires against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

Top 10 Property Types

Deliberate Fires

Grassland, woodland and crops	1309
Other outdoors (including land)	1200
Outdoor structures	592
Car	179
Non Residential	147
Dwelling	83
Outdoor equipment and machinery	64
Motorcycle	37
Van	29
Multiple Vehicles	22

Deliberate Fires by Primary or Secondary



Top 5 Fire Causes

Deliberate Fires

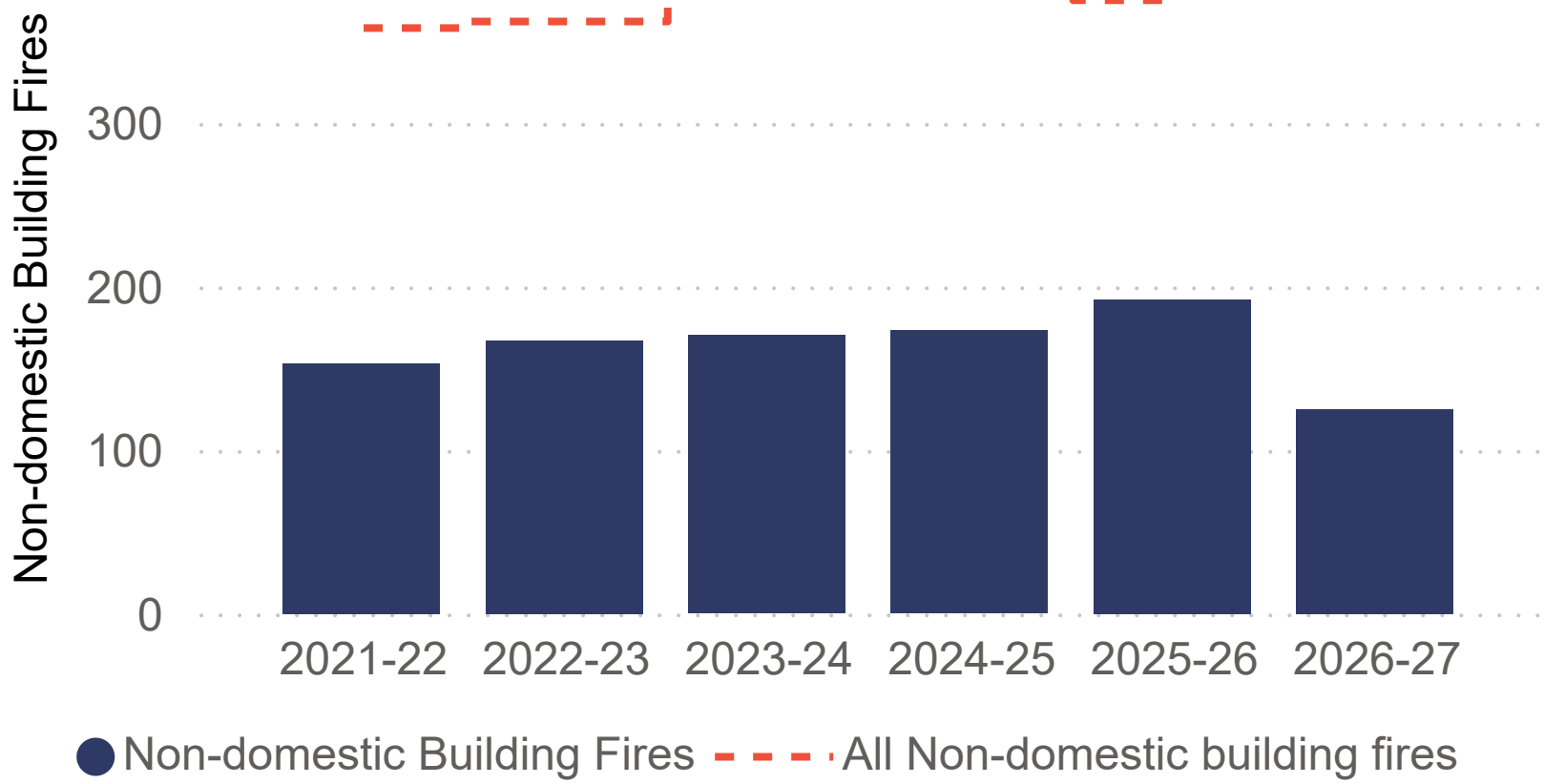
Deliberate - unknown owner	1438
Deliberate - others property	1198
Deliberate - own property	453
Deliberate - others property - Heat source and combustibles brought together deliberately	330
Deliberate - unknown owner - Heat source and combustibles brought together deliberately	189

Non-domestic Fires

01 April 2026

13 September 2026

Non-domestic Building Fires by Financial Year



All Non-domestic Building Fires (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.
The bars show the value for selected date range.

Non-domestic Building Fires Previous Year To Date Comparison

District	% increase/decrease on previous year	3 Year Average
Bradford	-14%	↓
Calderdale	-31%	↓
Kirklees	6%	↑
Leeds	-43%	↓
Wakefield	-56%	↓

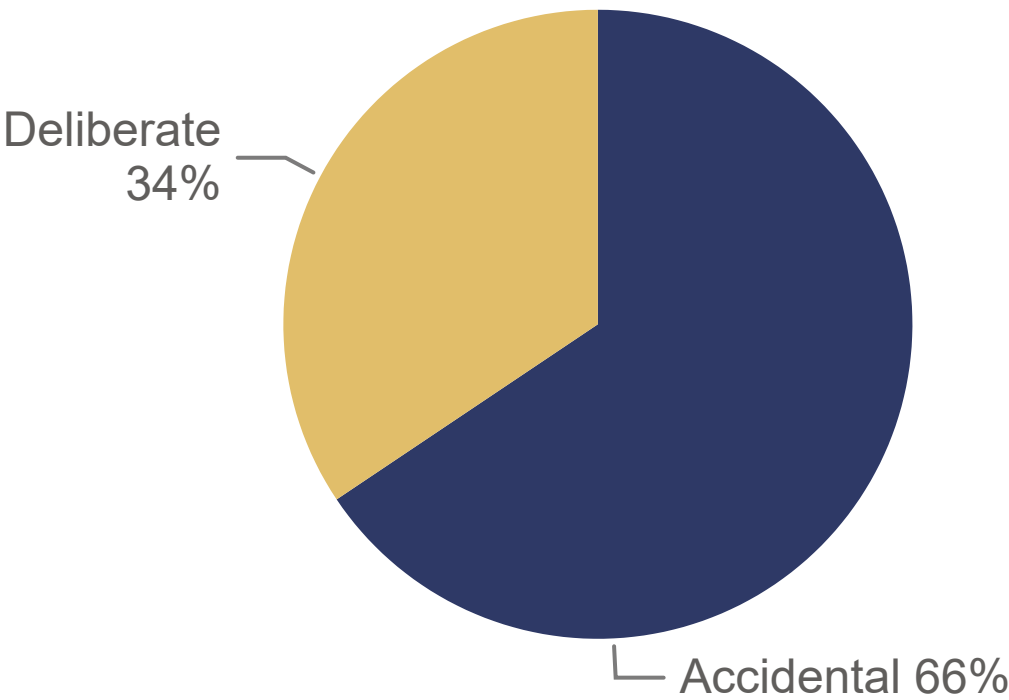
3 Year average indicator shows if current number of Non-domestic Building Fires this financial year is an increase/decrease of Non-domestic Building fires against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

Top 5 Property Types

Non-domestic Building Fires

Public admin, security and safety	27
Industrial Manufacturing	17
Food and Drink	16
Industrial Processing	13
Retail	11

Non-domestic Building Fires by Accidental or Deliberate Fires



Top 5 Fire Causes

Non-domestic Building Fires

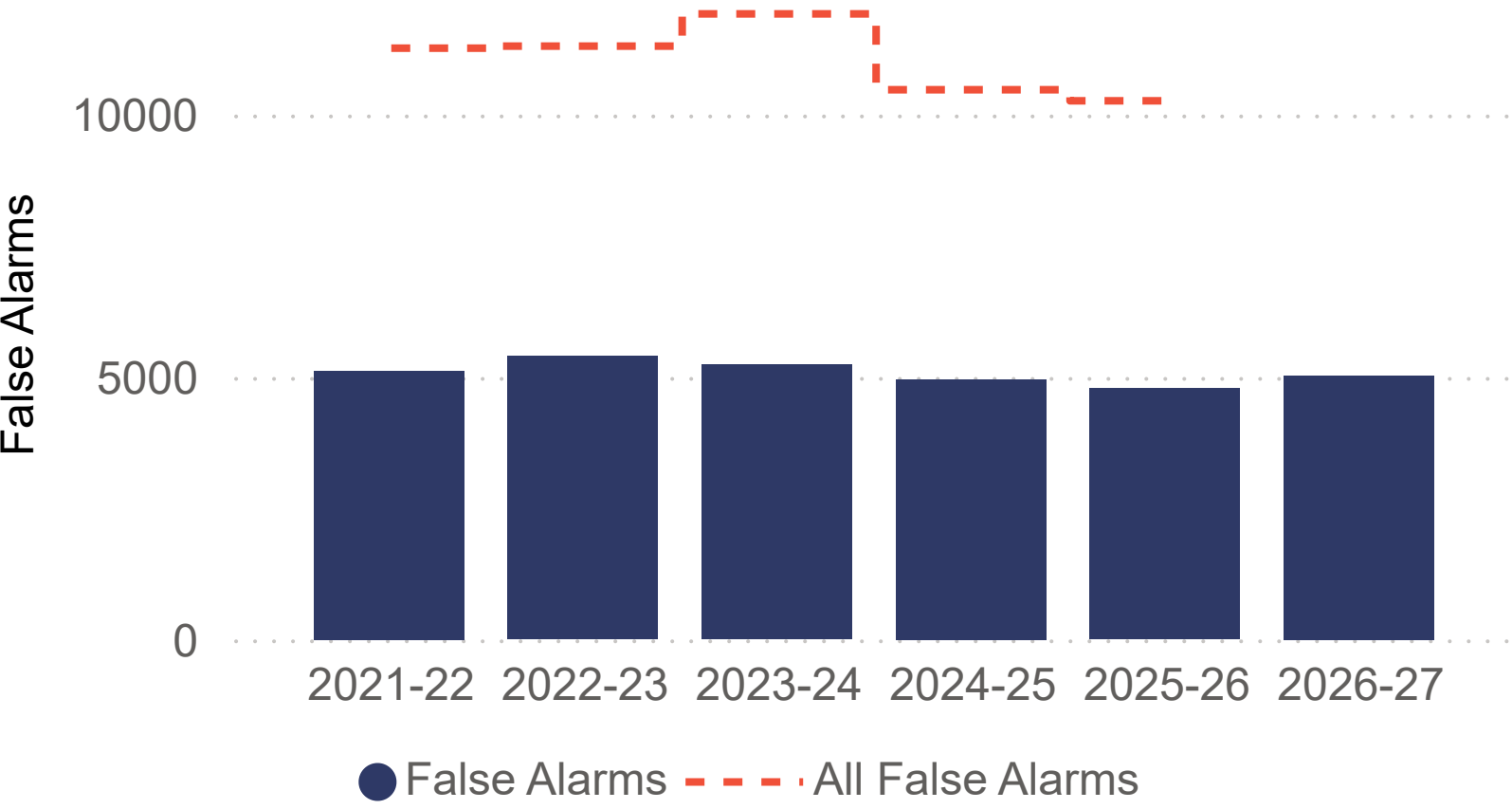
Deliberate - others property - Heat source and combustibles brought together deliberately	24
Accidental - Fault in equipment or appliance	12
Accidental - Faulty fuel supply - electricity	12
Deliberate - own property - Heat source and combustibles brought together deliberately	11
Accidental - Careless handling - due to careless disposal	9

False Alarms

01 April 2026

13 September 2026

False Alarms by Financial Year



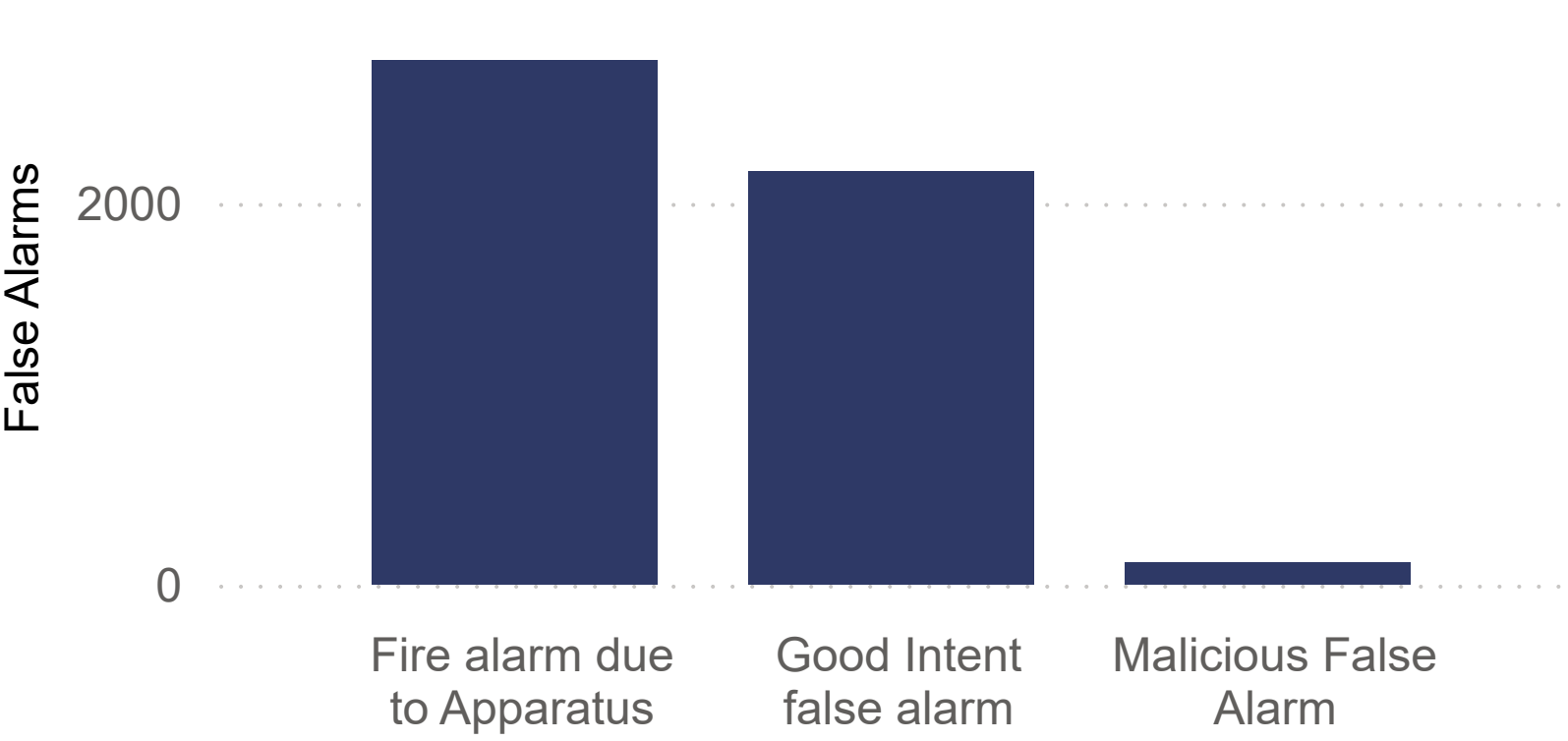
All False Alarms (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.
The bars show the value for selected date range.

False Alarms Previous Year To Date Comparison

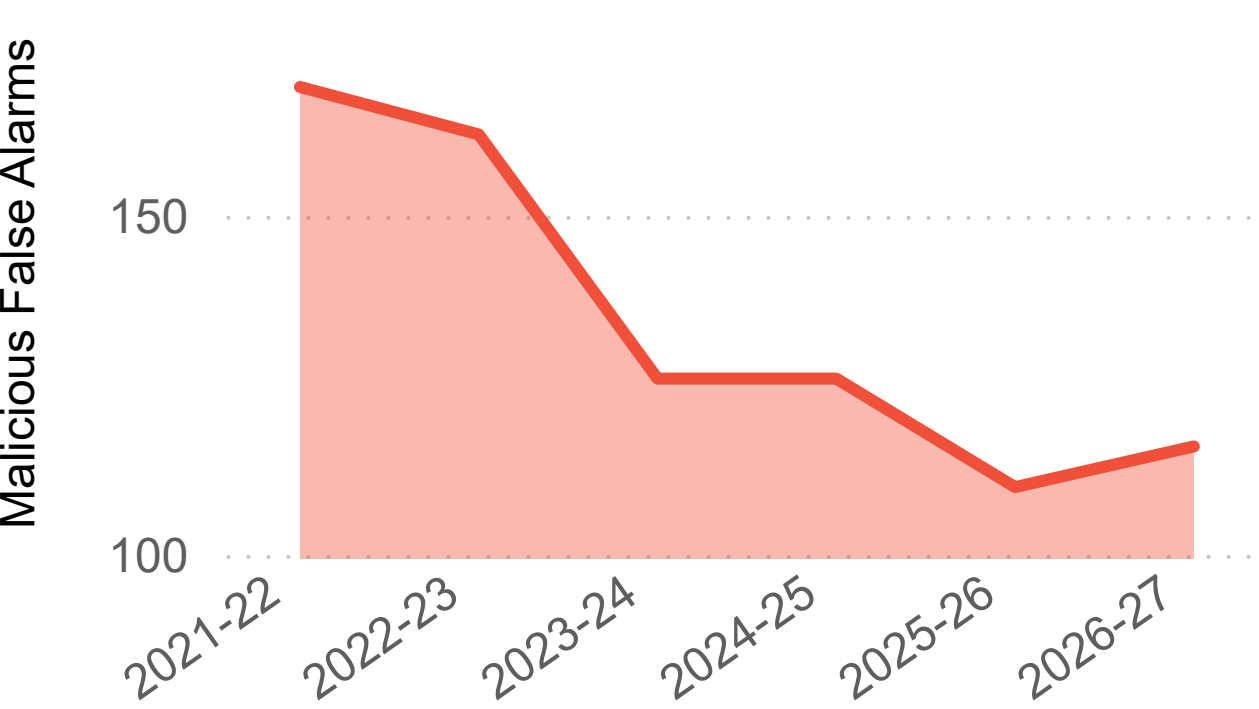
District	% increase/decrease on previous year	3 Year Average
Bradford	-5%	↓
Calderdale	-13%	↓
Kirklees	11%	↓
Leeds	14%	↑
Wakefield	8%	↑

3 year average indicator shows if current number of False Alarms this financial year is an increase/decrease of False Alarms against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

False Alarm by Reason



Malicious False Alarms by Financial Year



Top Dwelling Properties

Purpose Built
Flat/Maisonette - multiple occupancy

Top Other Residential Buildings Properties

Residential Home

Top Non-Residential Building

Education

Top Dwelling Reason

Faulty

Top Other Residential Building Reason

Cooking/burnt toast

Top Non-Residential Reason

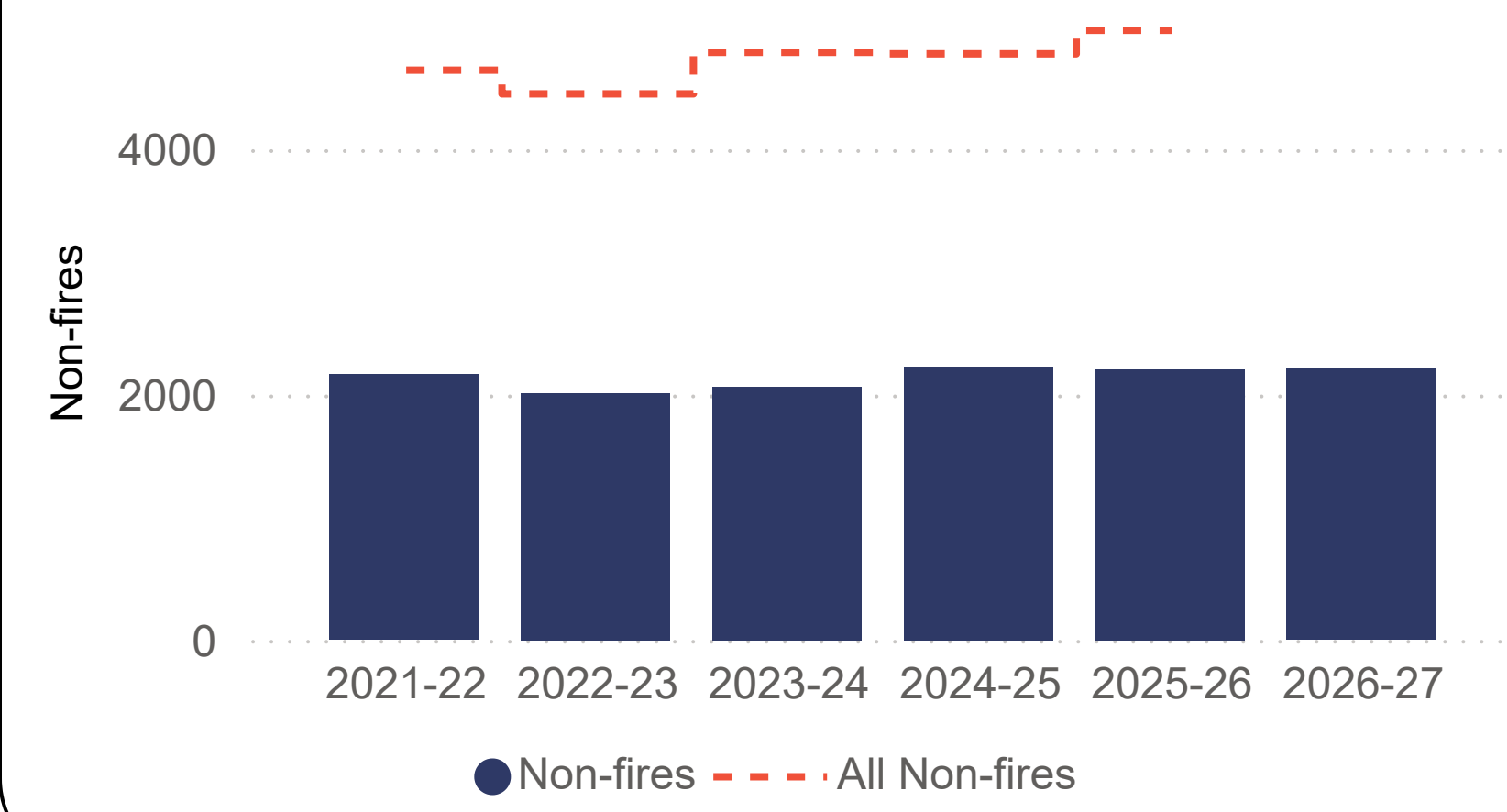
Faulty

Non-fires

01 April 2026

13 September 2026

Non-fires by Financial Year



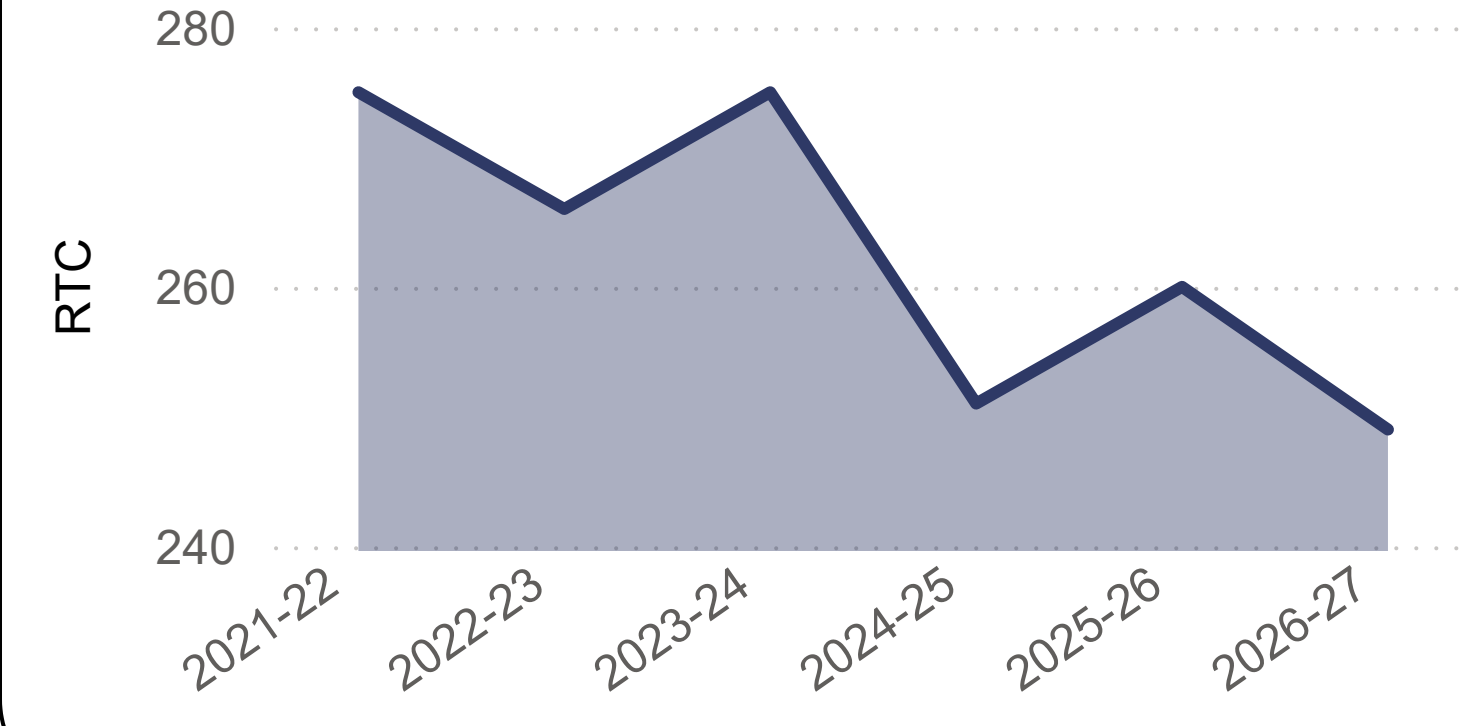
All Non-fires (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year. The bars show the value for selected date range.

Non-fires Previous Year To Date Comparison

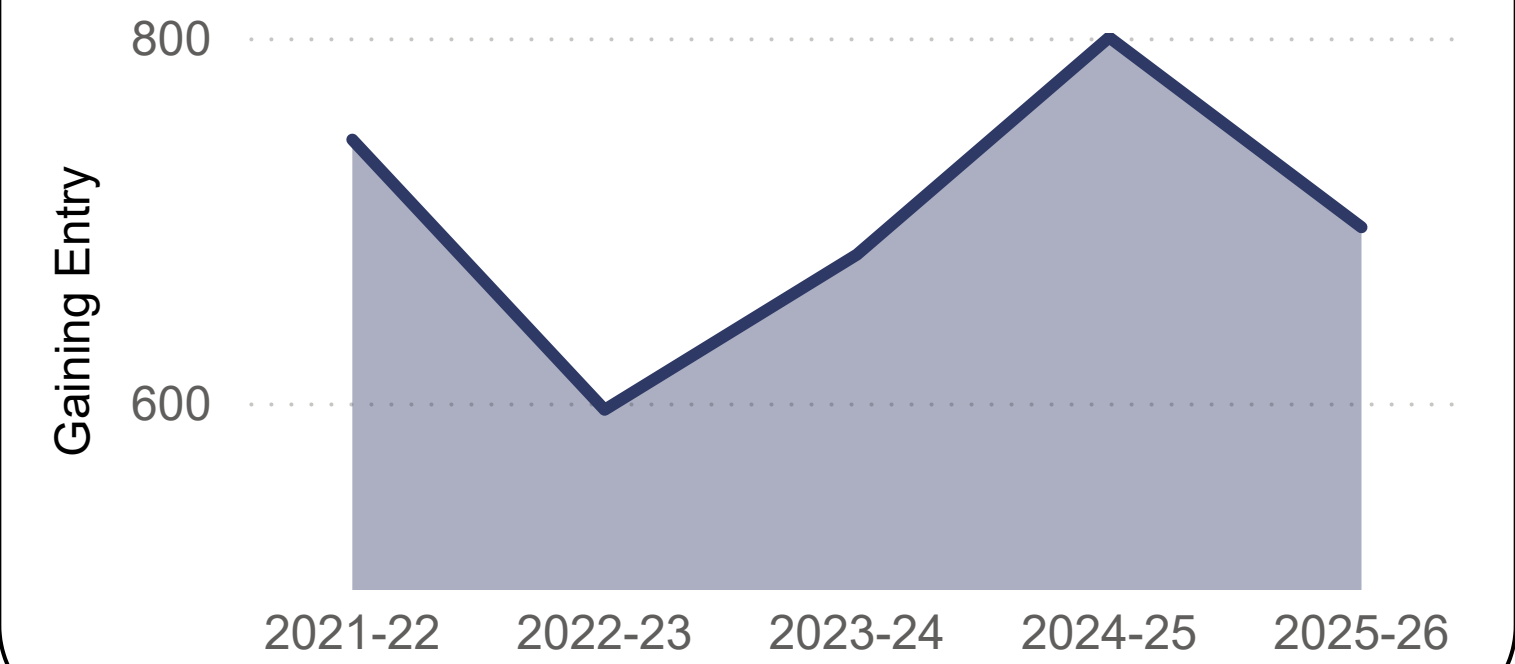
District	% increase/decrease on previous year	3 Year Average
Bradford	8%	↑
Calderdale	0%	↓
Kirklees	-2%	↑
Leeds	-5%	↑
Wakefield	8%	↑

3 Year average indicator shows if current number of Non-fires this financial year is an increase/decrease of Non-fires against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

Road Traffic Collisions by Financial Year



Gaining Entry Cause for Concern by Financial Year



Top 5 Non-fire Types

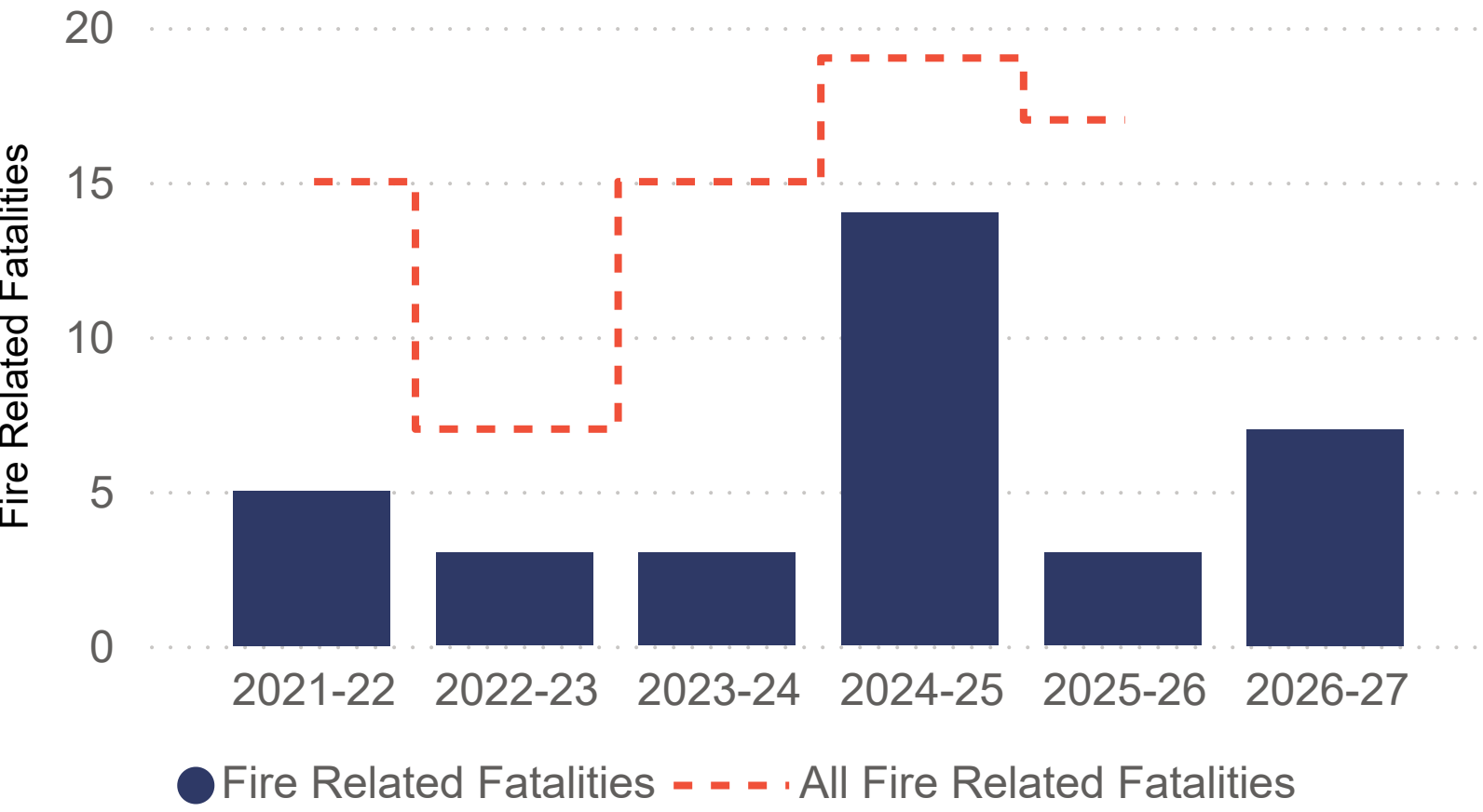
Non-fire Type	Count
Effecting entry/exit	695
No action (not false alarm)	301
RTC	252
Assist other agencies	142
Lift Release	129

Fire Related Fatalities

01 April 2026

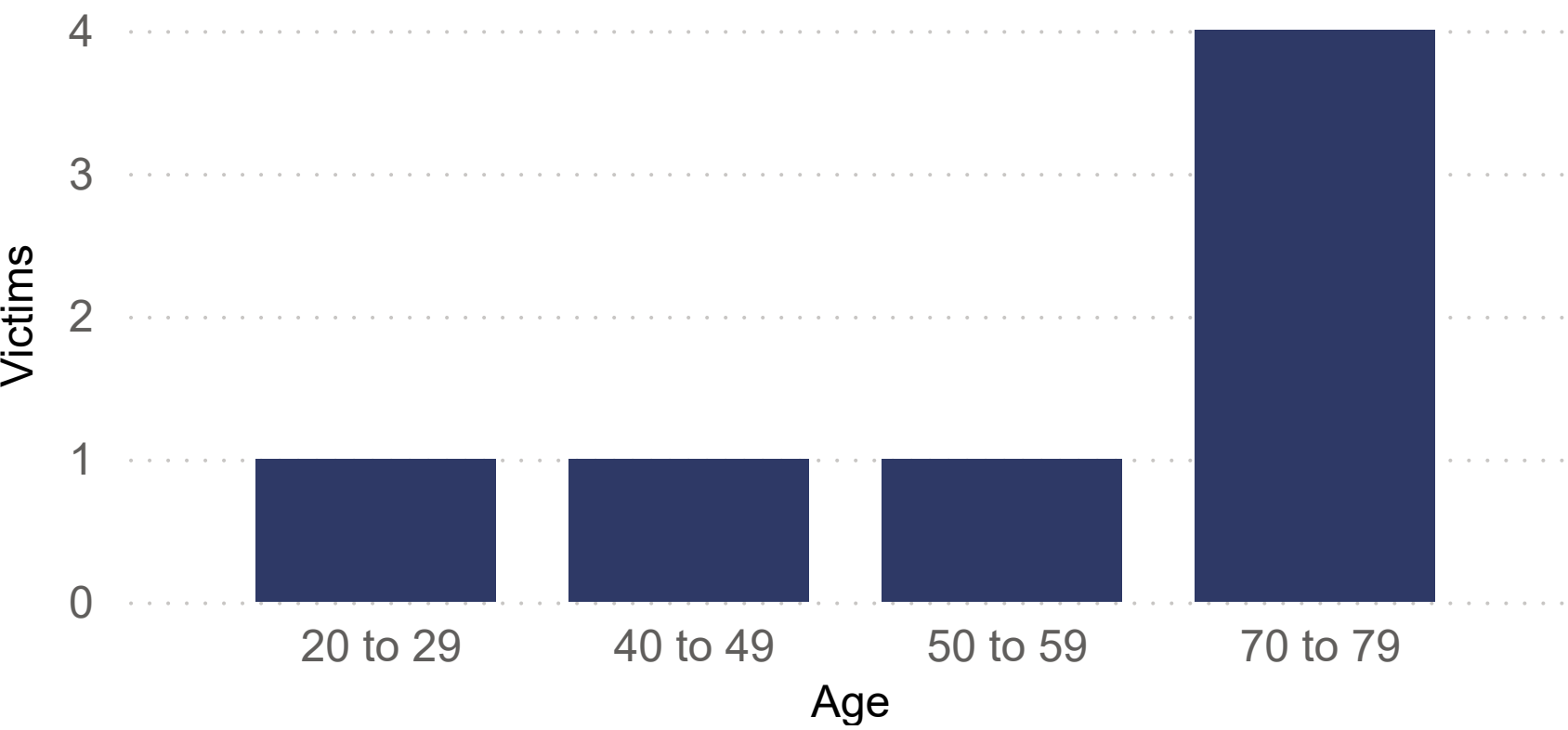
13 September 2026

Fire Related Fatalities by Financial Year

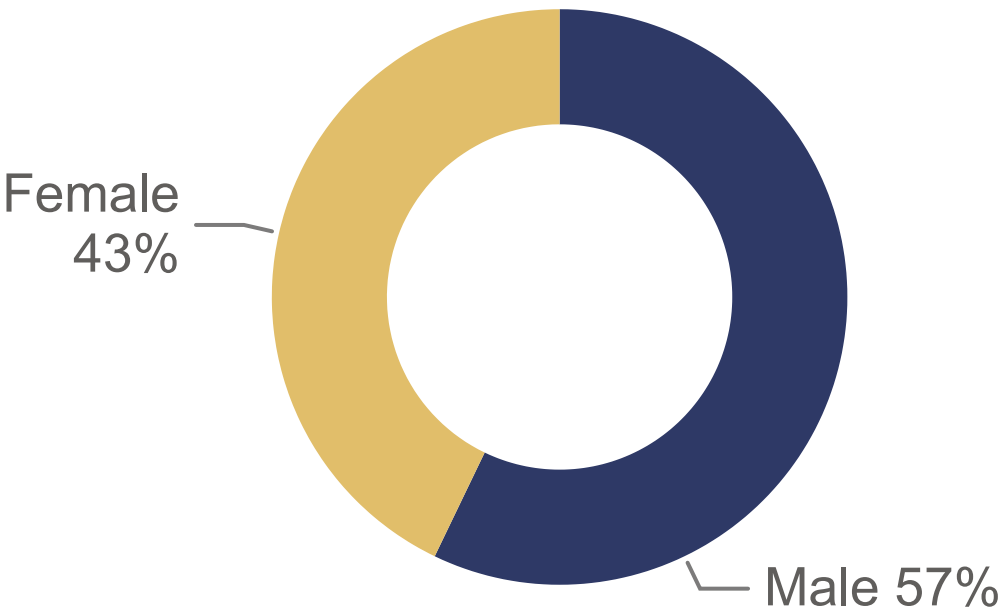


All Fire Related Fatalities (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.
The bars show the value for selected date range.

Fire Related Fatalities by Age



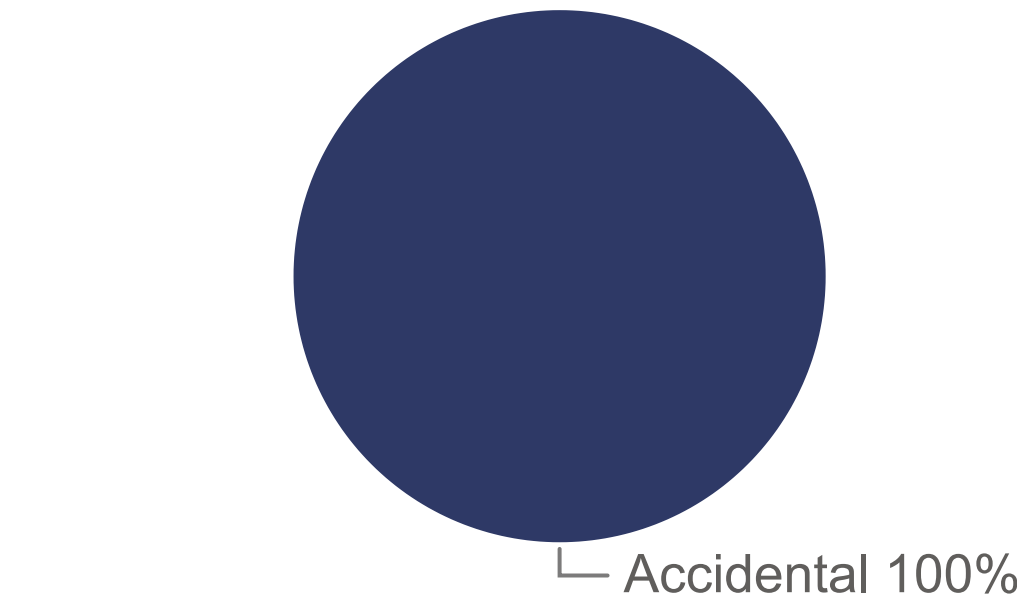
Fire Related Fatalities by Gender



Fire Related Fatalities by Property Type



Fire Related Fatalities by Accidental or Deliberate Fires

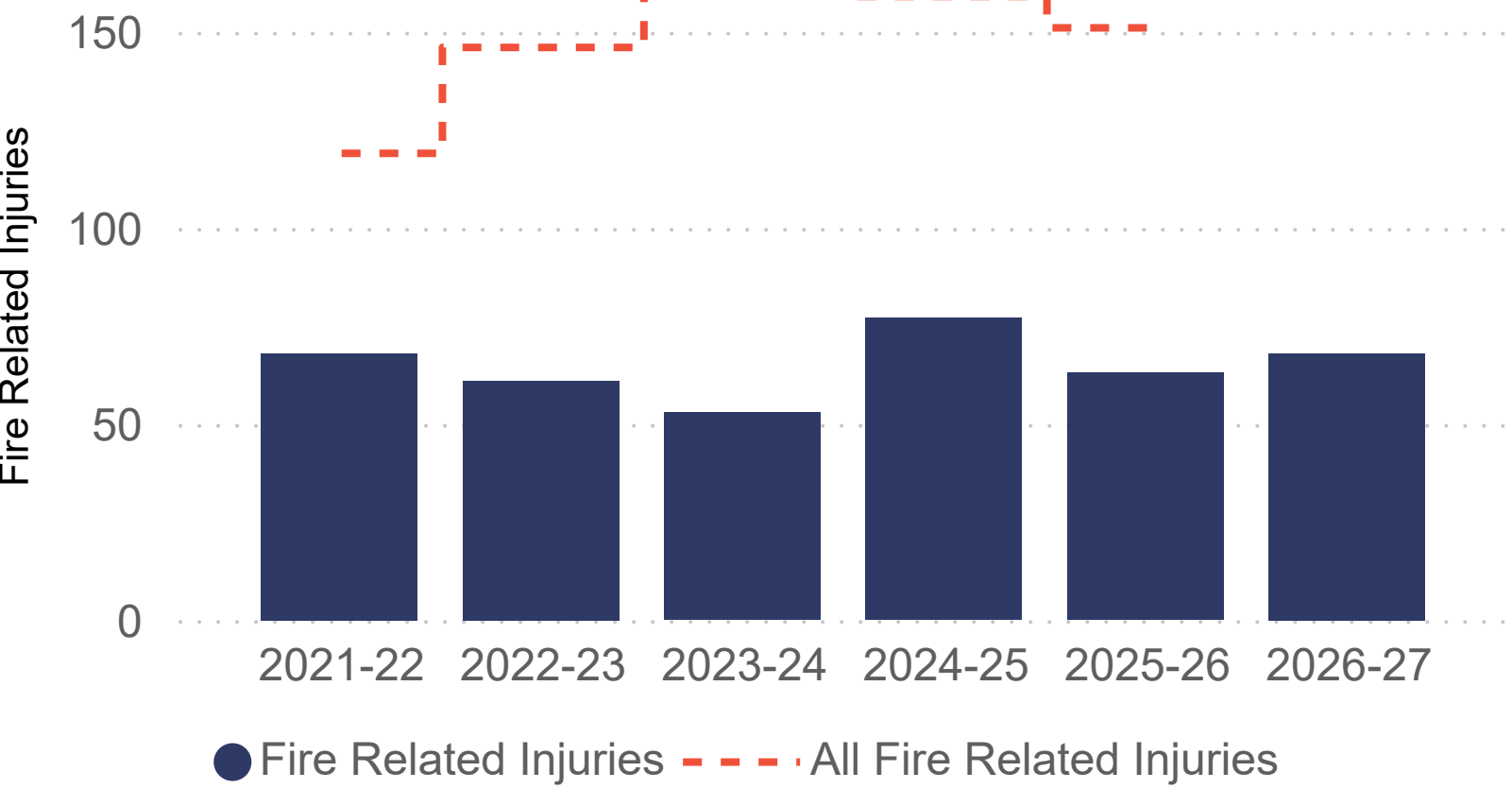


Fire Related Injuries

01 April 2026

13 September 2026

Fire Related Injuries by Financial Year



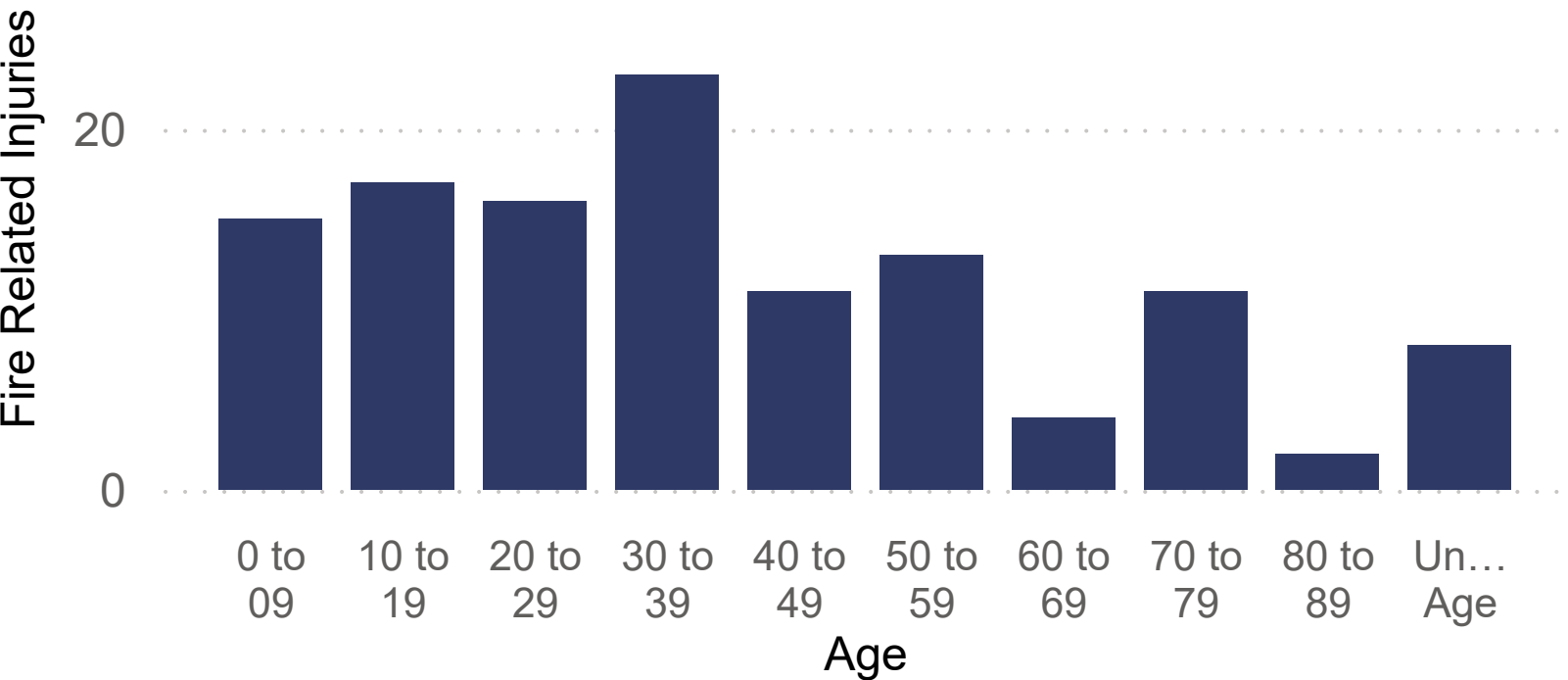
All Fire Related Injuries (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year. The bars show the value for selected date range.

Fire Related Injuries Previous Year To Date Comparison

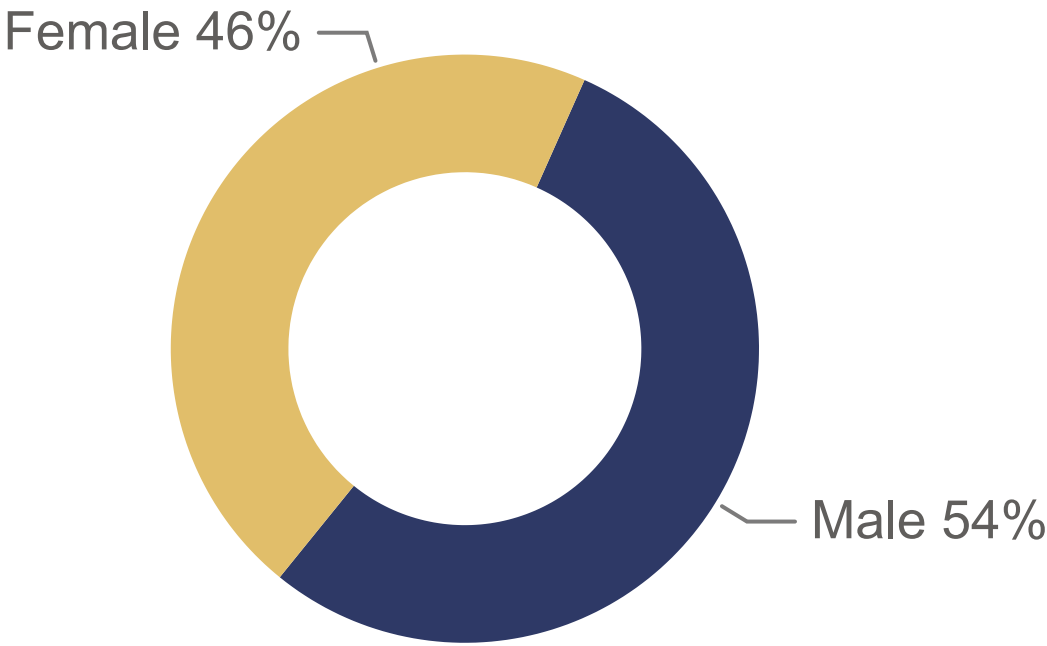
District	% increase/decrease on previous year	3 Year Average
Bradford	-22%	↓
Calderdale	117%	↑
Kirklees	20%	↑
Leeds	-7%	↓
Wakefield	25%	↓

3 Year average indicator shows if current number of Fire Related Injuries this financial year is an increase/decrease of Fire Related Injuries against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

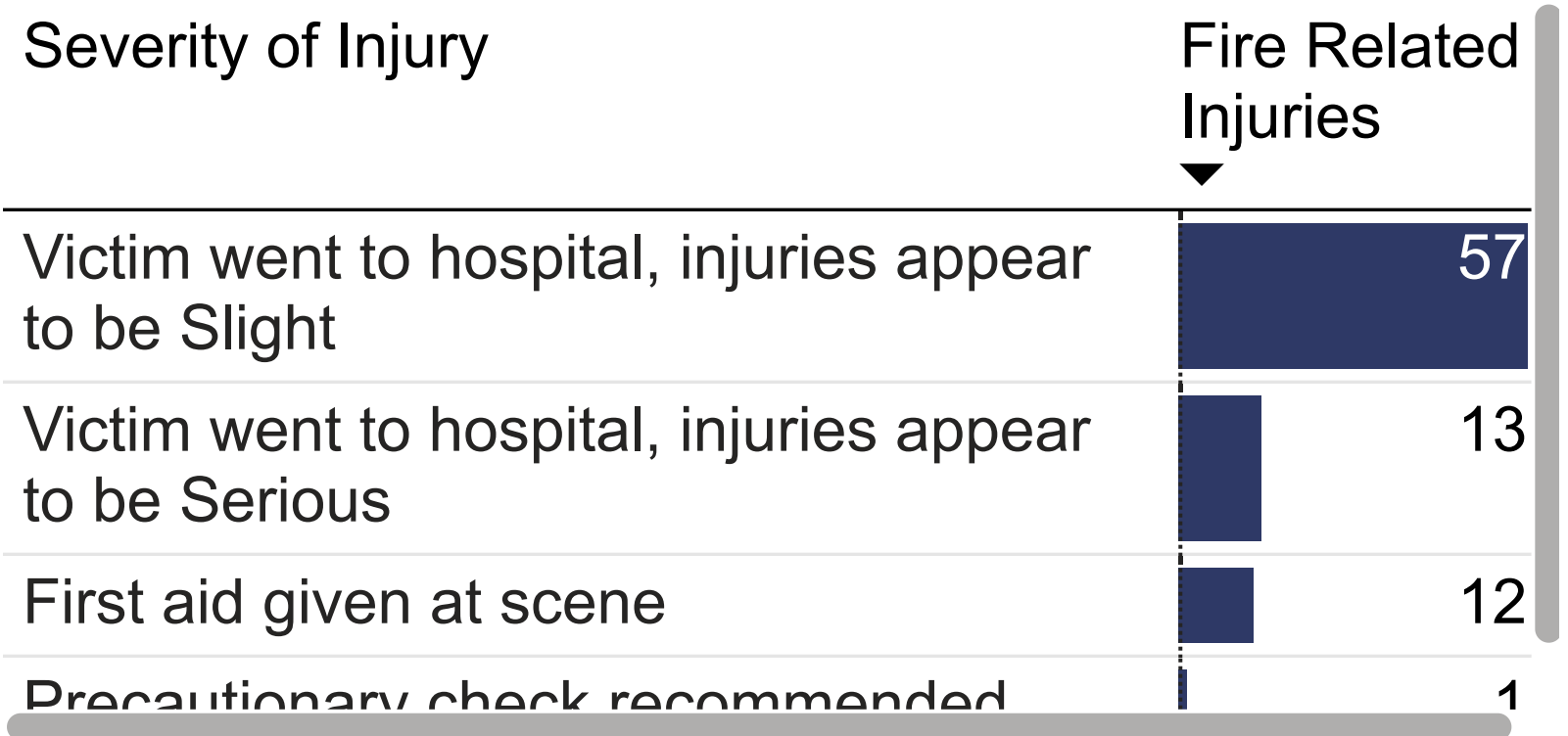
Fire Related Injuries by Age



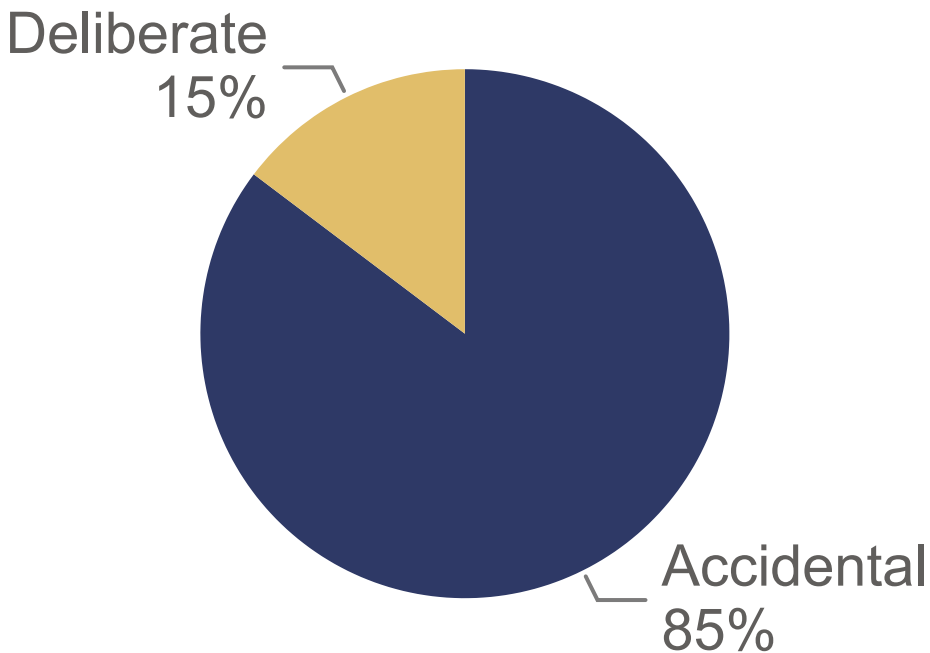
Fire Related Injuries by Gender



Fire Related Injuries by Severity



Fire Related Injuries by Accidental or Deliberate Fires



Top Property Type

House - single occupancy

Top Fire Cause

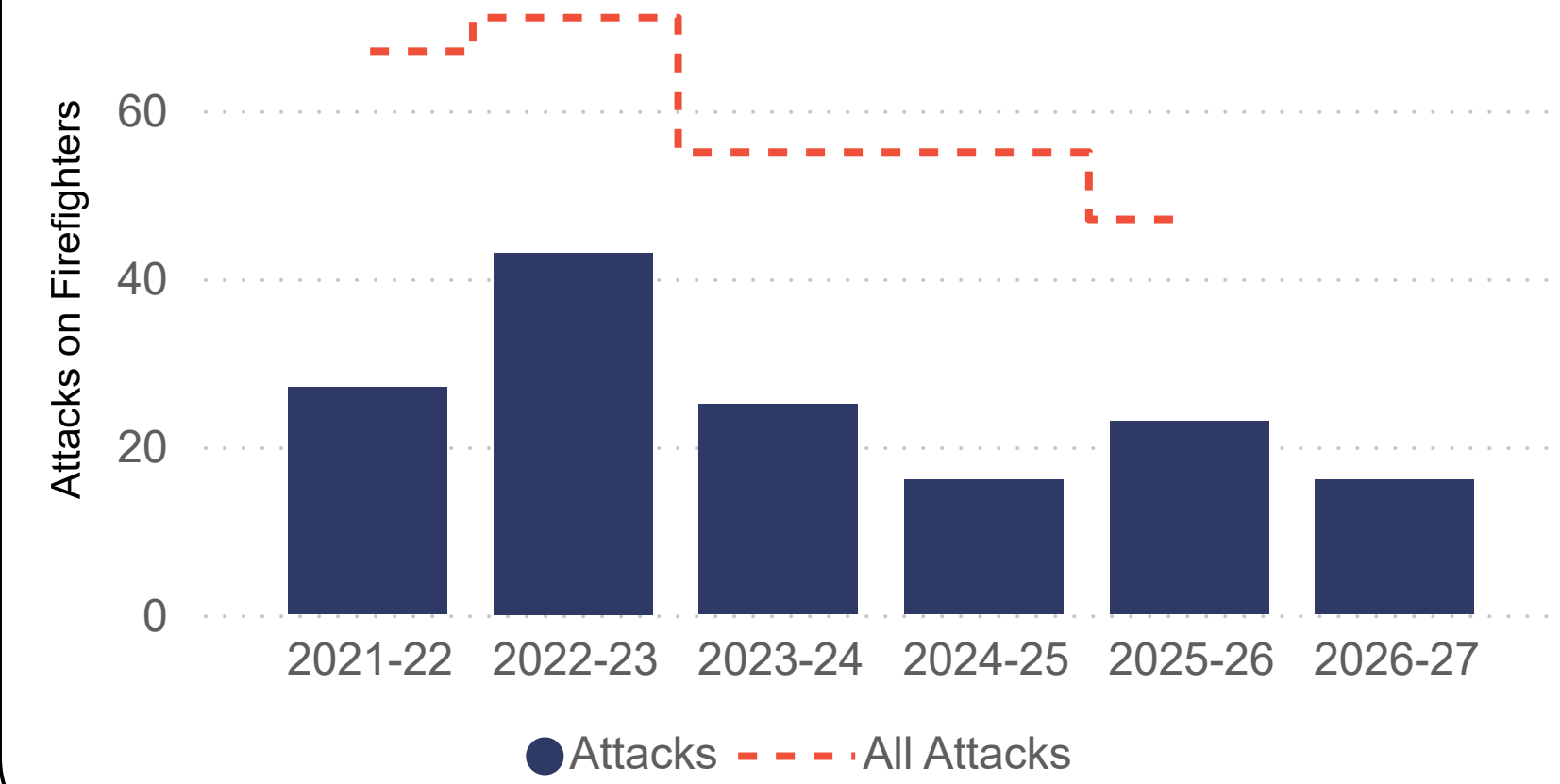
Accidental - Combustible articles too close to heat source (or fire)

Attacks on Firefighters

01 April 2026

13 September 2026

Attacks on Firefighters by Financial Year



All Attacks on Firefighters (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.
The bars show the value for selected date range.

Attacks on Firefighters Previous Year To Date Comparison

District	Current period	Previous year	% increase/decrease on previous year	3 Year Average
Bradford	7	9	-22%	↓
Calderdale	2	1	100%	↑
Kirklees	2	2	0%	↑
Leeds	3	10	-70%	↓
Wakefield	2	1	100%	↓

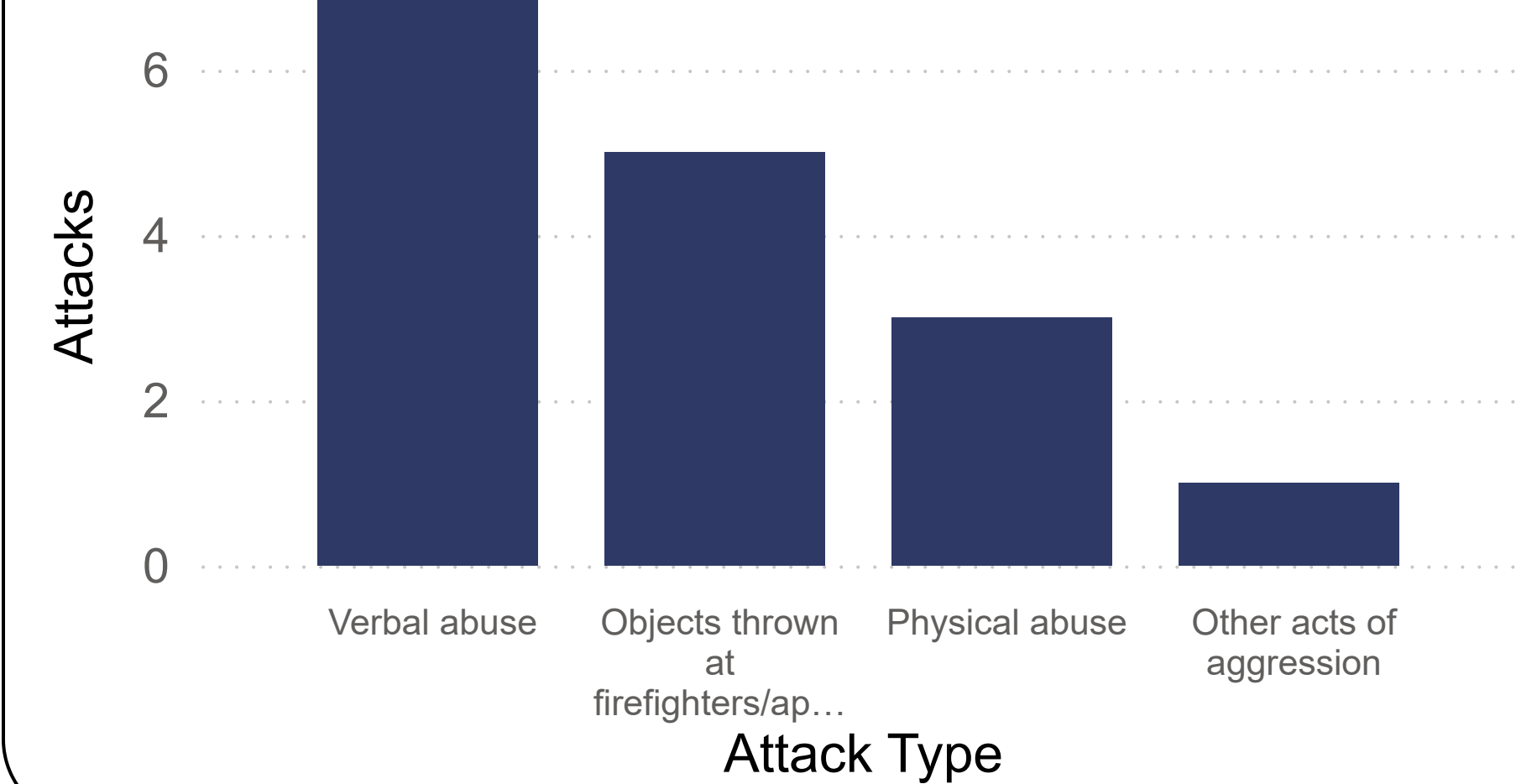
3 Year average indicator shows if current number of Attacks on Firefighters this financial year is an increase/decrease of Attacks on Firefighters against the 3 year average. Looking at only the comparison range.

Attacks on Firefighters by Severity



Visual may be blank if no slight and serious injuries are recorded for the date range.

Attacks on Firefighters by Attack Type



Percentage of incidents with an attack

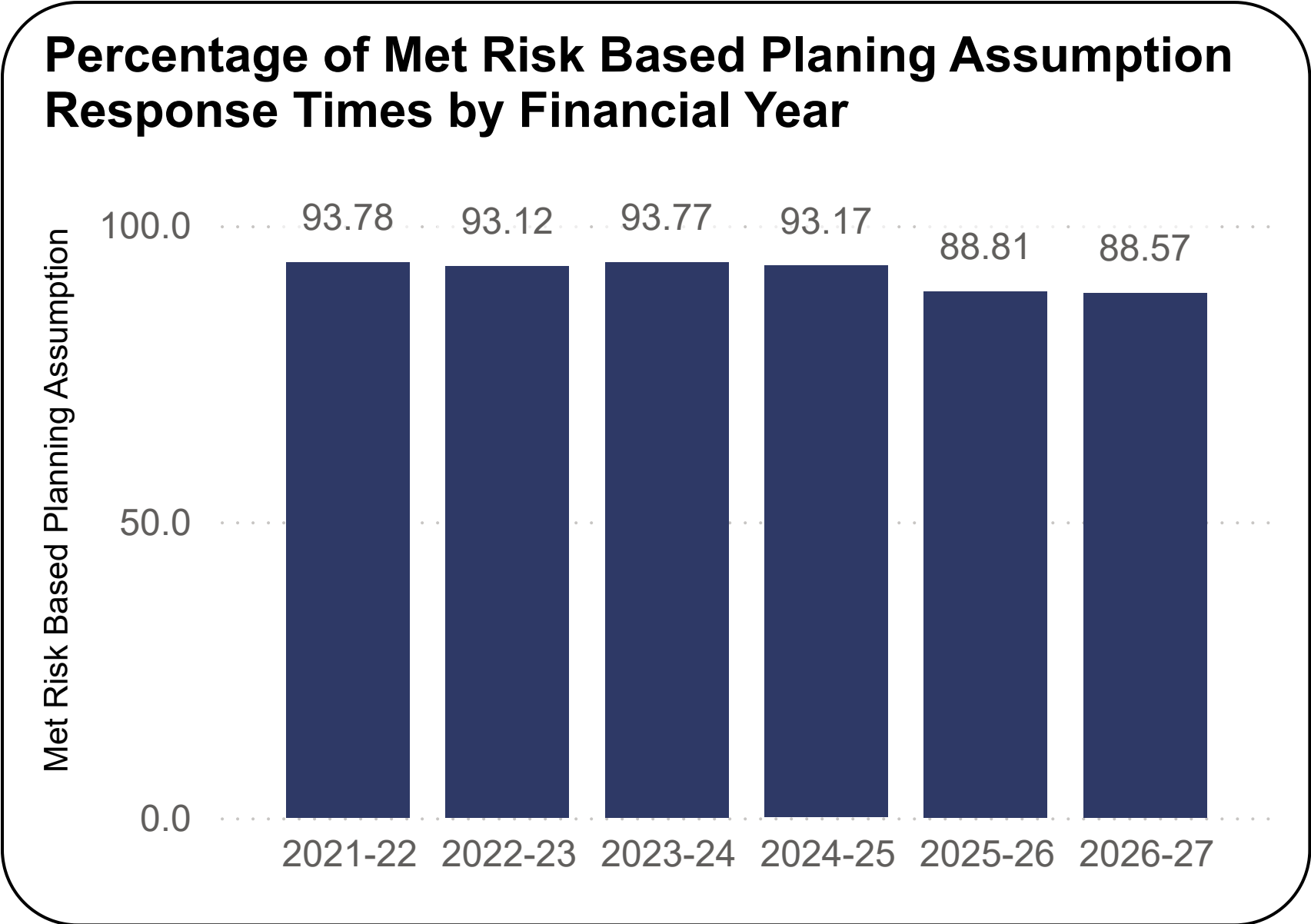
District	% Attacks at district total incidents
Bradford	0.20%
Calderdale	0.16%
Wakefield	0.10%
Kirklees	0.10%
Leeds	0.06%

Percentage of attacks based on number of incidents per district.

Response Times

01 April 2026

13 September 2026



Percentage of Met Risk Based Planning Assumption Response Time

District	% Met
Leeds	93.07
Bradford	89.58
Kirklees	84.03
Wakefield	84.02
Calderdale	83.11

Average Response Time by LSOA Risk Score and Severity

Risk Score	Life	Property
Very High	00:06:07	00:07:35
High	00:06:34	00:07:43
Medium	00:07:05	00:08:00
Low	00:07:23	00:08:50
Verv Low	00:08:30	00:11:14
Total	00:07:26	00:09:10

Average Response Time Targets

Risk Score	Life	Property	Other
Very High	7.00	9.00	15.00
High	8.00	10.00	15.00
Medium	9.00	11.00	15.00
Low	10.00	12.00	15.00
Very Low	11.00	13.00	15.00

LSOA: Lower Super Output Area.

The Risk Based Planning Assumptions (RBPA) utilised by WYFRS place greatest emphasis on the likelihood of incidents occurring where there is a risk to people. Three different classifications of incidents are utilised, these being:

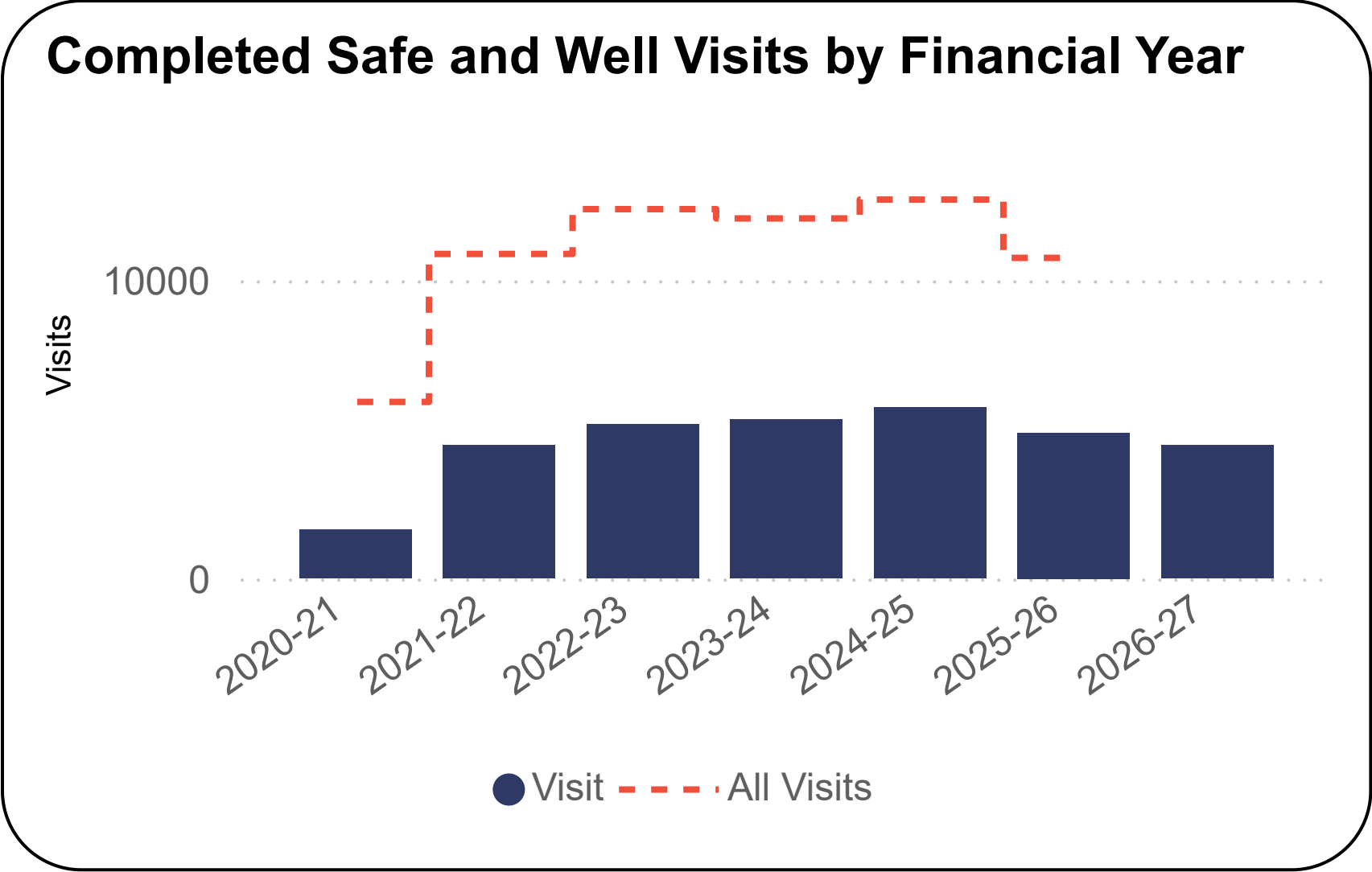
- Life – Potential for incidents to involve rescues, injuries or fatalities including private dwellings, or other sleeping risks.
- Property – Incidents occurring in properties other than those included within the Life risk.
- Other – All other incidents not included within the descriptors for Life and Property risk including secondary fires, false alarms and non-fire related incidents where there is no risk to human life.

The RBPA’s are underpinned by a comprehensive risk assessment for WYFRS.

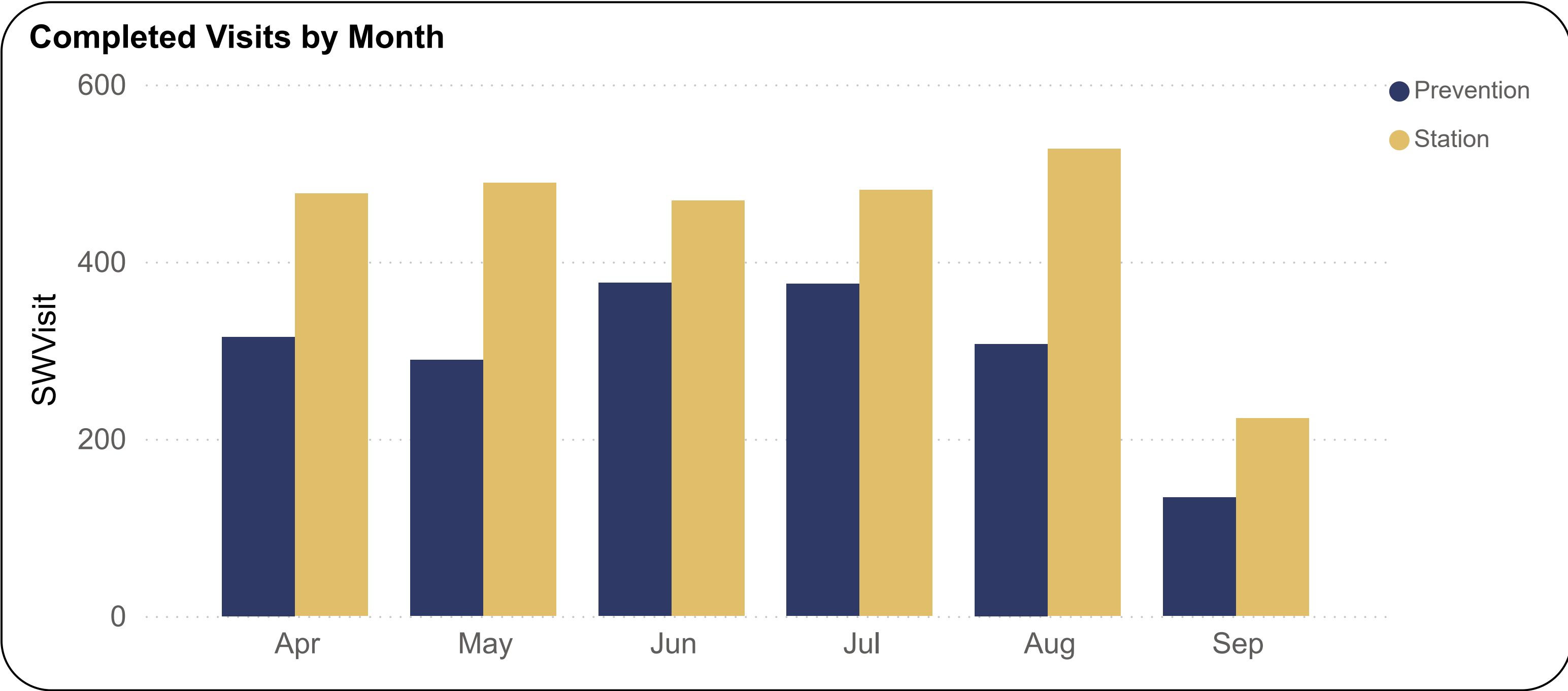
Safe and Well Visits

01 April 2026

13 September 2026



All Visits (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.
The bars show the value for selected date range.



The Safe and Well programme is the flagship prevention activity within WYFRS. We target vulnerability through a simple risk rating process and then visit people in their homes to offer information, advice and safety equipment. The risk rating process is to ensure that we are providing our resources to those who need it most.

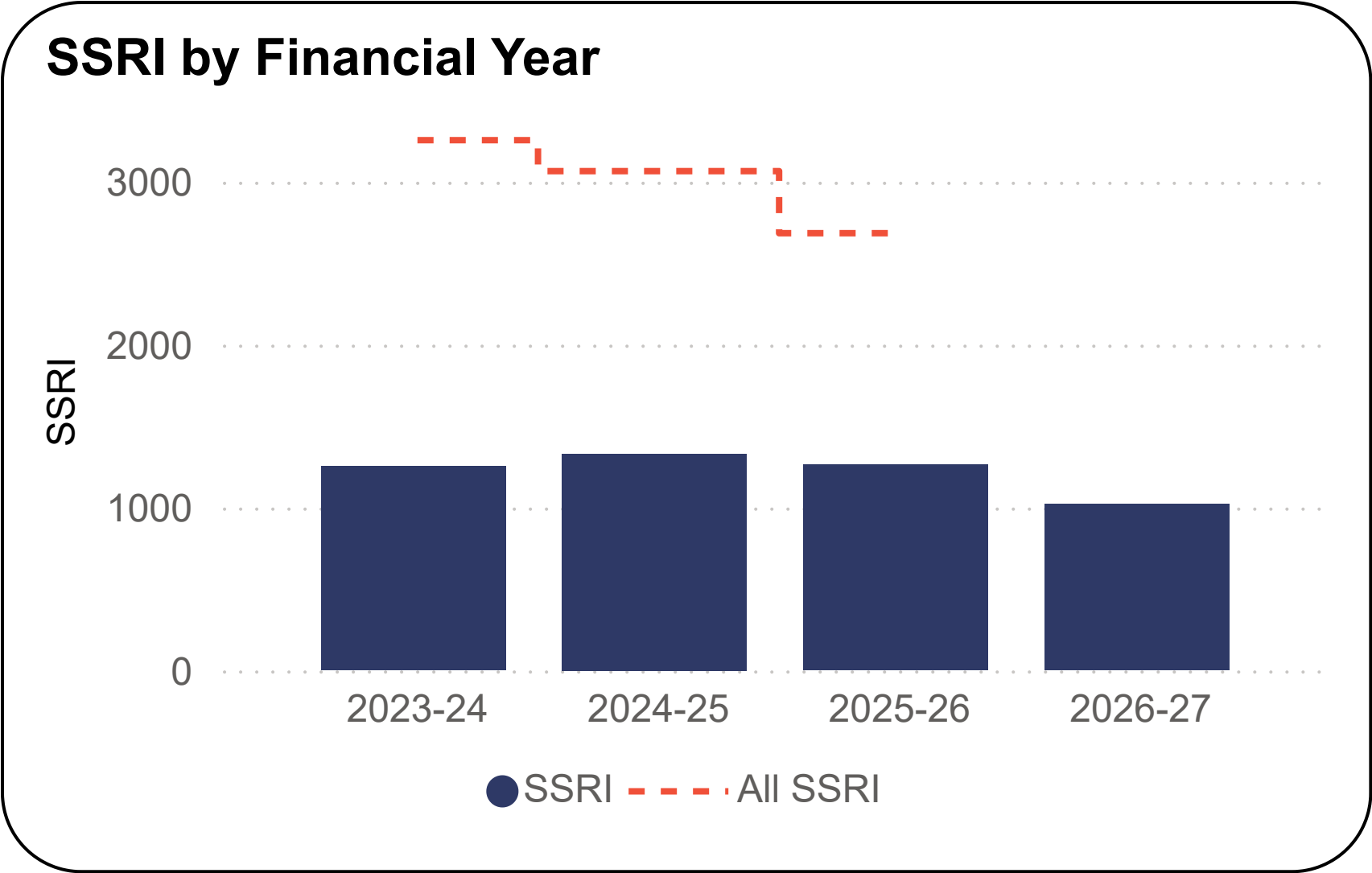
People can be referred to WYFRS from partner organisations, self-refer or we can identify the need for a Safe and Well Check during operational incidents.
It also covers a broader assessment of vulnerability against a number of other elements, including:

- Frailty and falls
- Social Isolation
- Winter Cold
- Crime
- Smoking

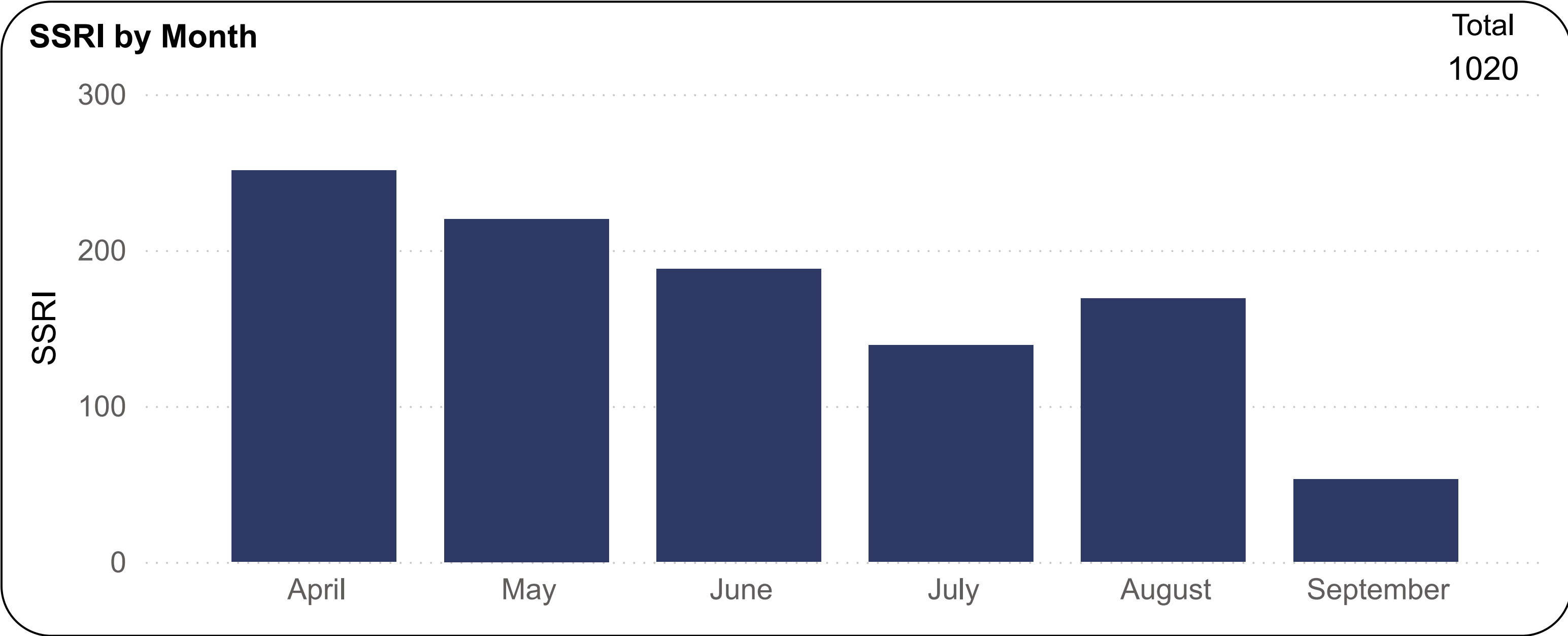
Site Specific Risk Inspections (SSRI)

01 April 2026

13 September 2026



All SSRI (red dotted line) shows the total figure for the financial year.
The bars show the value for selected date range.



SSRIs are generated from operational liaison referrals, post fire visits and what crews identified as perceived risks within their station area.

SSRIs are allocated to each District which are then allocated to stations/watches.

The Operational Risk Management Team centrally audit 100 percent of all SSRIs. This ensures a standard approach to the recording and understanding of risk which in turn underpins the safety of operational crews when responding to premises considered higher risk.

OFFICIAL

Agenda item: 13

Wildfire and Spate Conditions Summer 2026

Full Authority

Date: 25th September 2026

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Director of Service Delivery

Purpose: To inform Members of the operational, organisational and community impacts of recent heat, wildfire and prolonged dry weather activity.

Recommendations: That members note the report.

Summary: WYFRS managed elevated demand linked to prolonged hot and dry weather, wildfire risk and operational resilience pressures over the summer period. WYFRS used structured command arrangements, an Operational Support Cell, dynamic fire cover, welfare controls, partner communication, mobilisation derogations and proportionate mutual aid decision-making throughout this period.

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: AM Operations Support, David Teggart

Background papers open to inspection: None

Annexes: None

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This paper provides Members with an overview of the background, planning and assessment of our wildfire risk and the operational activity during the prolonged period of dry and hot weather during summer 2026. It explains the pressures created by heat and wildfire risk, the measures used to maintain resilience, the Service's specialist capability, prevention and partner activity, national deployments, welfare arrangements, and future considerations.
- 1.2 Summer 2026 was characterised by a prolonged period of hot, dry weather and limited rainfall, increasing outdoor fires and wildfire risk across West Yorkshire whilst creating similar operational pressures nationally. In response, WYFRS developed a programme of activities encompassing operational preparedness, prevention work, public safety communications, partner engagement and National Resilience support.
- 1.3 A key element of this response was Operation HELIOS, implemented between 12 and 16 August 2026 to provide enhanced command, coordination and resilience arrangements during the period of greatest operational pressure. During the five-day operation, WYFRS attended 761 incidents, and maintained appliance availability at higher levels through enhanced command oversight, an Operational Support Cell, dynamic fire cover arrangements, mobilisation measures and strengthened welfare controls. These ensured the Service maintained life-risk response capability and county-wide operational resilience.
- 1.4 Alongside managing local risks, WYFRS supported regional and national resilience requests where capacity permitted, delivered coordinated public safety messaging (#BeMoorAware campaign) and undertook targeted engagement at known wildfire hotspots.
- 1.5 West Yorkshire contains some of the most extensive upland moorland landscapes in England, primarily to our northern, western and southern flanks, covering parts of Leeds, Bradford, Kirklees and Calderdale. These moors are characterised by extensive areas of heather moorland, peat deposits, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA), the highest national protection designation and highest European nature conservation designation.
- 1.6 The SSSI designation recognises the area's nationally important habitats, including blanket bogs, wet and dry heath, acid grassland and breeding bird populations. The area is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) due to its international ecological importance.
- 1.7 West Yorkshire's most significant moorland SSSI is the South Pennine Moors SSSI, covering approximately 21,000 hectares across West Yorkshire and neighbouring counties. The majority of this designation lies within West Yorkshire and includes key moorland areas of Ilkley Moor, Haworth Moors, Rishworth Moor, Marsden,

Saddleworth and Moss Moor. It primarily borders North Yorkshire, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Derbyshire.

- 1.8 Much of the South Pennine moorland is covered by deep peat deposits, often in the form of blanket bog. Peat forms very slowly, accumulating over thousands of years where waterlogged conditions prevent vegetation from fully decomposing. Some peat deposits in the Pennines are several metres deep and thousands of years old.
- 1.9 Blanket bog/peatlands are the largest terrestrial carbon store in the UK and globally store more carbon than all the world's forests combined. Estimates suggest that over 40 million tonnes of carbon are stored within the peatlands of the South Pennine moors and surrounding moorland areas.
- 1.10 WYFRS has a statutory duty to protect the moorland environment and is a member of the South Pennines Fire Operations Group made up of local councils, landowners, Fire and Rescue Services, Yorkshire Water, United Utilities, Pennine Prospects and Natural England. The group coordinates protection activity within these areas.
- 1.11 Along with our partners, we want people to #BeMoorAware of the impacts that moorland wildfire has on our communities and how we can help to prevent future wildfires across West Yorkshire.
- 1.12 Key National Statistics:
 - 1,085 wildfires recorded across England and Wales between 1 January and 14 August 2026.
 - 639 wildfires recorded during the same period in 2025.
 - 1,017 wildfires attended nationally during 2025, the busiest wildfire season on record.
 - Previous record of 994 wildfires recorded during 2022.
- 1.13 As can be seen from the information above, National Resilience data shows that 1,085 wildfires have been recorded across England and Wales so far in 2026, meaning the number of incidents has already surpassed the total recorded during the whole of 2025 (1,017) – previously the worst year on record for wildfires.
- 1.14 The wildfire risk profile has changed significantly in recent years. Wildfire is no longer confined to remote rural or moorland locations and can now affect areas where vegetation, open space, transport routes, utilities, housing and community infrastructure meet. This is commonly described as the wildfire urban interface, or wildland-urban interface. In West Yorkshire this is particularly relevant where moorland, grassland, woodland, canal corridors, disused land, green belt, farmland or urban fringe locations sit close to residential areas, schools, care settings, businesses, road and rail networks, water infrastructure and other critical services.
- 1.15 Fires in these interface areas create additional operational complexity because they can involve both vegetation fire behaviour and conventional risks to people, property and infrastructure, as seen in Wennington, London July 2022 (18 homes destroyed)

and Stourbridge, West Midlands August 2026 (19 homes destroyed). Both these incidents (and many others) saw rapid fire spread, wind-driven smoke, difficult access, limited water supplies and the potential for multiple seats of fire that generate high call volumes and require simultaneous actions to protect life, defend property, manage evacuation or shelter advice, protect critical infrastructure and maintain wider emergency cover.

- 1.16 This risk also reinforces the need for wildfire to be considered within land-use planning, community risk management, infrastructure resilience and local prevention activity. Reducing the likelihood and impact of wildfire in interface areas requires coordinated action between Fire and Rescue Services, Natural England, DEFRA, local authorities, landowners, land managers, infrastructure providers, housing providers, businesses and communities. This includes proportionate vegetation and fuel management, safe public access arrangements, clear prevention messaging, early reporting, site-specific access and water information, and better awareness of how everyday activities such as barbeques, discarded cigarettes, campfires, deliberate fire-setting and unmanaged waste can create ignition sources during periods of elevated fire danger.
- 1.17 The response of WYFRS throughout the summer period provides assurance that existing resilience arrangements were effective while reinforcing the importance of continued investment in specialist capability, prevention, partnership working, data quality and climate adaptation. As Phil Garrigan, NFCC Chair stated *"our new reality is risk is growing faster than our collective capacity to respond. Climate change, prolonged periods of extreme heat and changing land use are creating more frequent, larger and more complex wildfires. We must ensure that investment is not only sustained but enhanced if we are to keep pace with the risks facing our communities."*

2. Information

- 2.1 Wildfire and extreme weather activity is considered as a broader operational resilience issue rather than only a seasonal or environmental issue. Prolonged dry weather can increase outdoor fire demand, create simultaneous incident pressures, increase repeat calls into Control, affect firefighter welfare and reduce the availability of mutual aid where local, regional and national services are experiencing similar conditions.
- 2.2 WYFRS experienced elevated operational demand linked to hot/dry weather, wildfire risk which led to reduced operational resilience across West Yorkshire. Throughout this period WYFRS operational aim was to maintain firefighter safety, protect communities, preserve operational resilience and ensure an effective response to life-risk and other emergencies.
- 2.3 Evidence from national and local wildfire risk assessments indicates that there is increasing frequency, duration and severity of fire-supportive weather conditions across the UK. Warmer, drier summers, combined with increased vegetation growth

and fuel loading across moorland areas, are creating conditions that are more conducive to large and complex wildfire incidents.

- 2.4 Assessments commissioned by WYFRS and the National Fire Chiefs Council conclude that wildfire risk is likely to continue to increase in future years and that a combination of operational preparedness, prevention activity, partnership working and landscape-scale resilience measures will be required to mitigate the risk to communities, critical infrastructure, the environment and emergency service resources.
- 2.5 The most recent Wildfire and Vegetation fire risk and capability review (2025) undertaken by WYFRS identified a continuing upward trend in both the frequency and severity of wildfire and other outdoor fire incidents across West Yorkshire. Analysis demonstrates that wildfire risk varies seasonally, traditionally with significant upland risk associated with moorland and vegetation fires during spring and increased risk from crop and vegetation fires across rural areas during the summer months. The review also highlights the influence of prolonged dry weather in summer and the changing land-use and land management practices in shaping ongoing and future risks. This evolving risk profile reinforces the importance of seasonal planning, targeted prevention activity, specialist response capability and proactive resilience arrangements to ensure the Service can effectively respond to ongoing and emerging threats.
- 2.6 Independent wildfire analysis commissioned by WYFRS highlights that the most effective long-term approach to reducing wildfire risk is through collaborative, landscape-scale resilience planning involving landowners, land managers, local authorities, partner agencies, local communities and Fire and Rescue Services. The analysis concludes that strategic fuel management, wildfire prevention activity, community engagement and coordinated planning can significantly reduce wildfire intensity and improve opportunities for successful suppression. This aligns with WYFRS's position that wildfire resilience cannot be achieved through emergency response alone and requires a collaborative approach that balances environmental, biodiversity and wildfire risk reduction objectives to protect communities and the natural environment.
- 2.7 WYFRS's current wildfire capability has evolved through significant organisational learning following a number of major wildfire incidents experienced both locally and nationally. Reviews undertaken following the major moorland fires in 2010/11, 2018/19, 2022 and 2025 each identified opportunities to enhance training, specialist equipment and vehicles, personal protective equipment (PPE), command arrangements, firefighter welfare and operational resilience. As a result, the Service has invested in specialist wildfire resources, enhanced training, improved operational procedures and strengthened partnership arrangements. The successful management of recent wildfire activity and sustained periods of elevated demand demonstrates the value of this investment and WYFRS's commitment to continuous improvement and operational readiness.

2.8 WYFRS Wildfire Position

- 2.9 West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service works closely with land managers and partner organisations to support a proactive, landscape-scale approach to improving wildfire resilience across the region. However, it is not the role of the Fire and Rescue Service to prescribe land management practices.
- 2.10 We encourage a collaborative approach from policymakers that enable land managers (collaboratively with FRS, local Fire Operations Groups etc.) to utilise a range of land management techniques to reduce wildfire risk and severity, improve opportunities for effective suppression, and support their wider land management objectives.
- 2.11 It is important that any landscape management plan contributes to all objectives and considers how managing each risk alone might impact on other objectives and risks. Consequently, objectives should be best optimised to deliver resilience for our communities, biodiversity, ecosystem health and to mitigate the spread of large wildfires.

2.12 National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Wildfire Position

- 2.13 The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) [Wildfires position statement - NFCC](#) (2024) recognises wildfire as a growing national risk driven by climate change, increasing operational demand and prolonged incidents which place significant pressure on Fire and Rescue Service resources. NFCC highlights that wildfire response is funded through core FRS budgets rather than a dedicated funding stream and advocates for sustained investment in national resilience capabilities, specialist equipment, training and tactical adviser capacity. The NFCC also calls for improved national data collection through the adoption of a single UK wildfire definition, stronger cross-government coordination, and greater emphasis on land management and partnership working to strengthen wildfire prevention, preparedness and response.

2.14 Key NFCC Recommendations

- Government should keep funding for national roles to support wildfire preparedness and response under review to ensure that national resources are sufficient and the wildfires portfolio is not under-resourced.
- Government should establish more consistent collection of quality data at a national level to enable better forecasting of emerging risks, and the predicted scale and impact of wildfires on communities. This should be underpinned by a consistent definition of wildfire that is shared across all government departments and partner agencies and NFCC recommend using the definition included in National Operational Guidance (see 2.63).
- Government should improve joint-working across different departments to ensure that there is aligned strategic decision and policymaking on the prevention and management of wildfire risks across the UK.

- Government should place greater emphasis on the importance of land management across relevant government departments, both centrally and within the Devolved Administrations, as well as statutory agencies and local authorities in order to reduce the number and severity of wildfires resulting from improper land management.
- Government should work with the fire sector to ensure that requirements for specialist equipment and capabilities are clearly identified, and that there is appropriate funding available for key national resilience assets.

2.15 This position reflects NFCC's view that a coordinated national approach, supported by adequate funding, robust data, effective land management and strong partnerships, is essential to improve the UK's resilience to an increasing wildfire threat.

2.16 **Mutual Aid and National Resilience Arrangements**

2.17 WYFRS operates within established local, regional and national mutual aid arrangements which enable the Service to request assistance from, and provide assistance to, other Fire and Rescue Services where incidents exceed local capacity or where specialist capability is required. These arrangements are underpinned by the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, including Section 13, which requires Fire and Rescue Authorities to make arrangements, so far as practicable, for mutual assistance, and Section 16, which enables Fire and Rescue Authorities to enter into agreements for the discharge of their functions by others, including other Fire and Rescue Authorities. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 provides the statutory basis for these arrangements, while sector interpretation describes Sections 13 and 16 as the framework for reinforcement schemes, reciprocal support and contractual arrangements between Fire and Rescue Authorities.

2.18 In practical terms, these arrangements allow WYFRS to maintain and access cross-border response arrangements with neighbouring services, including mobilisation of appliances, officers, specialist teams, equipment and command support where this is necessary and proportionate. For wildfire and spate conditions, such arrangements are particularly important because demand can escalate rapidly, incidents can become prolonged and resource intensive, and the same weather system can create simultaneous pressures across several Fire and Rescue Service areas. This means that mutual aid must be considered dynamically, balancing the urgency of the request, the scale and complexity of the incident, the specialist capability required, the availability of local resources, and the need to maintain appropriate emergency response cover within West Yorkshire.

2.19 Where incidents exceed local or regional capacity, or where nationally held specialist capability is required, WYFRS can access support through the National Coordination and Advisory Framework (NCAF). The NCAF provides a flexible and nationally coordinated structure that enables Fire and Rescue Services to request, supply and receive resources during escalating, complex or unexpected incidents that exceed local capacity. It supports major incident response by linking local Fire and Rescue

Services, National Resilience arrangements and central government coordination, ensuring that resources are prioritised and deployed according to risk, demand and national need.

- 2.20 National Resilience provides specialist capabilities, personnel, equipment and coordination arrangements to strengthen the sector's ability to respond to large-scale, complex or catastrophic incidents. National Resilience is a shared responsibility between central and local government and includes arrangements for specialist assets, capability coordination, national mobilisation and strategic oversight. National Resilience Fire Control is the primary route for Fire and Rescue Services seeking to engage national support, including the identification, coordination and mobilisation of national assets to assist with significant, serious or catastrophic incidents.
- 2.21 For wildfire incidents, national arrangements can include access to specialist wildfire tactical advice, national resilience equipment, logistics support, off-road capability, high volume pumping, Enhanced Logistic Support/Command Support and other specialist resources where available. The NFCC recognises wildfire as a growing national risk, notes that Fire and Rescue Services remain reliant on tactical advisers coordinated through National Resilience and highlights the need for continued investment in specialist equipment, training, national roles and data quality.
- 2.22 WYFRS therefore considers mutual aid and National Resilience requests on a case-by-case basis through the strategic and tactical command structure, supported by situational awareness, appliance availability, specialist capability information, welfare considerations, forecast conditions and wider regional or national demand. During periods such as Operation HELIOS, requests to provide support to other services were assessed against the need to maintain local resilience, protect life-risk response capability and preserve sufficient fire cover across West Yorkshire. Where capacity existed, WYFRS was able to support regional and national incidents with personnel, wildfire resources, equipment, logistics and command support. Where local risk or availability prevented deployment, requests were declined or only partially supported.
- 2.23 These arrangements provide assurance that WYFRS is able to both draw upon and contribute to wider sector resilience. However, they also demonstrate that mutual aid is not unlimited and may be constrained during widespread heat, drought, wildfire or spate conditions where several services experience simultaneous demand. Continued investment in local specialist capability, cross-border planning, National Resilience readiness, operational learning, welfare arrangements and robust decision-making remains essential to ensure WYFRS can support national resilience while continuing to protect the communities of West Yorkshire.
- 2.24 National Resilience Wildfire Capability Pilot**
- 2.25 In 2026 the National Resilience Wildfire Capability pilot was launched in collaboration with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), National

Resilience Wildfire Advisor and NFCC. It was developed as a pilot for the 2026 wildfire season, with the aim of providing a nationally deployable resource to support Fire and Rescue Services during periods of heightened demand. The capability is designed to complement local arrangements, providing additional capacity and specialist expertise for large, complex and prolonged wildfire incidents.

- 2.26 This is part of the governments approx. £100 million investment to upgrade national resilience – helping our fire and rescue services deal with the most complex incidents, from flash floods to wildfires.
- 2.27 This includes a NFCC National Resilience Wildfire Capability with dedicated off-road vehicles, Wildfire Tactical Advisors and specialist wildfire teams able to deploy nationally to aid other services.
- 2.28 Additionally, it includes trialing wildfire response teams from other countries which are prone to wildfires, deploying them as needed across England and in the longer term, working across government to develop a Wildfire Action Plan to improve resilience.
- 2.29 As part of this pilot, the MHCLG Fire Research team will be conducting an evaluation to understand how the capability has been implemented, how it operates in practice, and any factors which may support or weaken its delivery.

2.30 WYFRS Wildfire Capability

- 2.31 We currently have 9 specialist trained Wildfire stations with approx. 150 staff across these stations. The stations are strategically placed to cover our known geographical wildfire and moorland risk areas, primarily within Kirklees, Calderdale and Bradford districts. These specialisms are further broken down into Primary, Secondary, Light and Logistics, these assets provide off-road access and specialist firefighting equipment designed for use during moorland and wildfire incidents.
- 2.32 Our four primary wildfire stations each have a 4x4 towing vehicle and a trailer-mounted all-terrain vehicle (ATV) which contains a fogging unit. We have Argocat and Polaris ATV's that allow crews to rapidly deploy firefighting resources in challenging environments. Three of the four stations have Landrover's with dedicated fogging units along with the firefighting ATV.
- 2.33 Our three secondary wildfire stations each have a wildfire trailer containing additional specialist wildfire equipment including portable pumps, temporary water dams, backpack blowers, hand tools, brush-cutting equipment, weather monitoring equipment and lightweight hose systems to enhance operational effectiveness during prolonged incidents.
- 2.34 Our two wildfire light stations have additional wildfire equipment on their appliances including backpack blowers and other wildfire-specific equipment to support initial response and provide resilience across the Service area.

- 2.35 Our wildfire Logistics station has an ATV that is used to transport equipment and personnel across the incident ground.
- 2.36 All of the wildfire specialist stations undertake specialist wildfire training with junior officers attending external wildfire courses. We have a cohort of Wildfire Officers who also attend specialist wildfire courses, and we currently have 1 x Wildfire National Resilience Tactical Advisor.
- 2.37 Each district completes annual CPD sessions regarding wildfire incidents provided by the specialist wildfire trained personnel to all other front-line personnel which includes the wildfire operational capability, equipment familiarisation and wildfire theory-based input, learning and understanding. This is further supplemented by all front-line firefighters completing Wildfire E-learning on a rolling basis.
- 2.38 The Service also operates six MAN 4x4 fire appliances, each carrying wildfire-specific equipment including backpack blowers, wildfire hose, branches, and portable pumps.
- 2.39 Furthermore, all front-line fire appliances carry backpack extinguishers and fire beaters to support the early stages of wildfire and vegetation fire incidents, as well as all other frontline firefighting equipment as standard.
- 2.40 We operate several Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), commonly known as drones, to support our operational incident response. These provide aerial imagery and live video feeds to assist Incident Commanders in decision making.
- 2.41 In January 2020 we provided the WYFRA Community Safety Committee with an update on Wildfires, this report can be found Agenda Item 7 [here](#).
- 2.42 Since 2023, we have purchased 4 additional Argocat's, see Wildfire Vehicles - Finance & Resources Committee (3 February 2023) Agenda Item 12 [here](#).
- 2.43 Over the last 2 years we have introduced Wildfire/Multi role PPE to all of our operational colleagues, ensuring that all front-line personnel have access to suitable PPE to meet the growing demands that climate-driven incidents are placing on the service. These funds were approved in the capital plan for 2023/24 for a budget of £476,500, see Wildfire Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Finance & Resources Committee (21 July 2023) Agenda item 6 [here](#). However, the actual cost of these was £675,972 spread across 2 financial years of 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- 2.44 In recent years, we have upskilled and brought online additional Wildfire specialist stations, increased the resilience of our wildfire ATV drivers, increased the equipment and indirect firefighting options such as brush cutters and the improved availability of backpack blowers.
- 2.45 We are embedding further the use of wildfire predication modelling to plan when, where and how to deploy the various offensive and defensive firefighting tactical options and strategies to meet the needs of wildfire incidents.

2.46 With the increase in specialist wildfire vehicles, equipment and PPE, we have introduced updated operational guidance based on National Operational Guidance and the recently released NFCC Wildfire competency framework.

2.47 The most recent wildfire and vegetation fire risk and capability review (2025) provided 5 proposals:

- Slaithwaite is converted to a Primary wildfire station and a new Argo Cat with fogging unit and trailer is procured. Completed April 2025.
- Meltham is converted to a Secondary Wildfire station and the trailer from Slaithwaite is relocated to Meltham. Completed April 2025.
- A primary wildfire station is considered in Wakefield District. Reviewed the options and agreed that with the overall increase in Wildfire vehicle provision, this would not be implemented at this time, as any Wildfire vehicle could be moved to the Wakefield district at short notice.
- A Tactical Burns Team is established to provide defensive and offensive burns options for wildfire operations. Option partially deferred, further analysis would be required to identify the operating model, initial and ongoing training and equipment requirements for a burns team. This decision was taken in part to assess and understand the tactical burns teams' options further, through the use of the teams that are available cross border in Greater Manchester and Lancashire. However, some requirements that were identified within this proposal, for the movement of people and equipment were taken forwards and a Logistics ATV (Argocat and Trailer) were procured.
- A working group should be established to capture vehicle requirements and lessons learned from existing vehicles. Completed 2025 and now forms part of the Wildfire Forum.

2.48 **Wildfire Prevention Campaign (#BeMoorAware)**

2.49 WYFRS created the #BeMoorAware campaign, and throughout 2026 has worked collaboratively with North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Humberside Fire and Rescue Services to deliver consistent wildfire prevention messaging across Yorkshire. Promoting responsible behaviour in the countryside and raising awareness of the significant impact wildfires can have on communities, the environment and emergency service resources. The initiative builds on the campaign's established success and demonstrates a shared commitment to reducing wildfire risk through prevention, education and public engagement. You can see more information about Wildfire Safety at the WYFRS website ([Wildfire Safety | West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service](#))

2.50 Below are some simple steps people can take to help protect the wildlife and moors:

- Observe all signs and notices – they are there for a reason.
- Follow the [National Trust Countryside Code](#).
- Clear up and take your rubbish home after picnics.

- Don't leave glass bottles. Not only can they hurt people and animals, but they can magnify the sun's rays and start a fire.
- Never be tempted to light a fire in the countryside and only barbecue in authorised areas.
- Never throw lighted cigarette ends onto the ground, or out of the window of vehicles or trains. Always ensure that they are completely extinguished and disposed of responsibly.
- Remember, if you see a fire or someone using a BBQ on the moorland - call 999 and ask for the Fire Service.

2.51 Throughout the summer, the four partner fire and rescue services have shared #BeMoorAware advice across their websites and social media channels, encouraging everyone to enjoy the countryside responsibly while helping to protect communities, wildlife and the natural environment from the devastating impact of wildfires.

2.52 **Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Control of Barbecues, Fireworks and Naked Flames**

2.53 WYFRS has worked with Bradford Council, Calderdale Council & Kirklees Council to introduce Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) relating to bans on barbecues, fires, sky lanterns, fireworks and other dangerous items from moorland across their districts.

2.54 In August 2026, following the implementation of a temporary nationwide ban on the sale of disposable barbecues, the Secretary of State under direction from Prime Minister Andy Burnham wrote to all local authorities regarding Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) and enforcement powers.

2.55 A PSPO is intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a specific area by imposing conditions on the use of that area to ensure that people can use and enjoy public spaces safely. They were introduced through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Sections 59 to 75.

2.56 Activities can be controlled in the Restricted Area if two conditions are met:

- i. That the activities have had, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.
- ii. That the effect of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature and is, or is likely to be, such as to make those activities unreasonable and that the restrictions imposed by the Order are justified.

2.57 The Order can be enforced by Council Officers and the Police. Breaching a PSPO is a criminal offence. Enforcement officers can issue a fixed penalty notice, if appropriate and a fine of up to level 3 on prosecution.

2.58 Heather and Grass etc. Burning (England) Regulations 2021

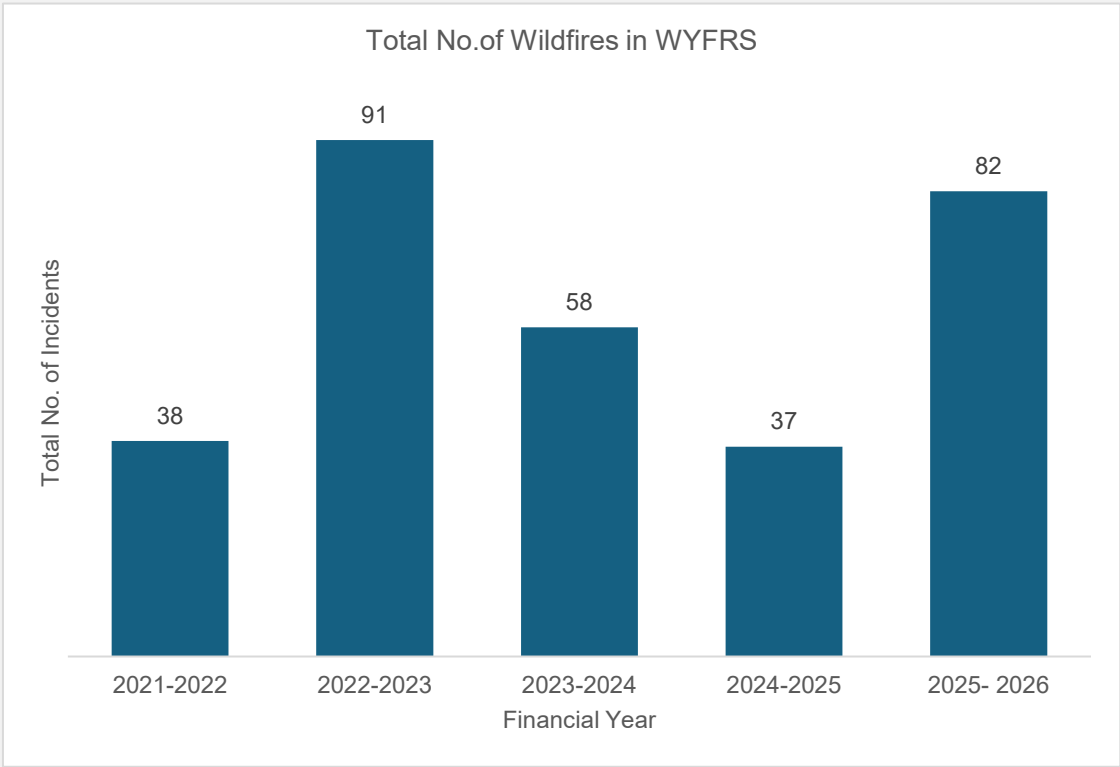
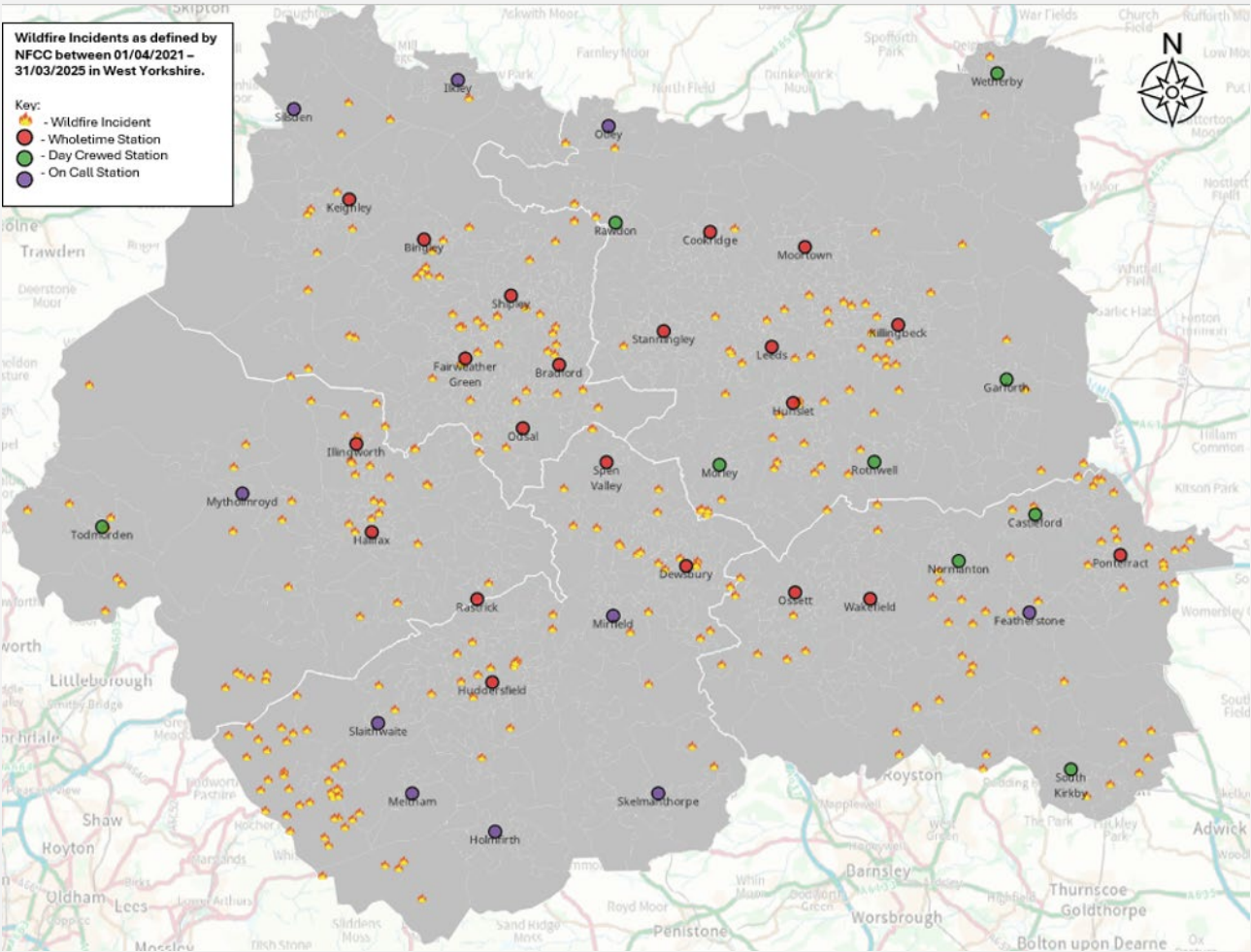
- 2.59 The Heather and Grass etc. Burning (England) Regulations 2021 place controls on the burning of specified vegetation, including heather, grass, bracken and gorse in England. The Regulations prohibit burning on protected peatland unless it is carried out under, and in accordance with, a license issued by the Secretary of State. A license may be considered where the proposed burning is assessed as necessary or expedient for wildfire risk reduction, but the applicant must demonstrate that the proposed activity is justified, controlled, proportionate and supported by appropriate environmental and wildfire management information.
- 2.60 Applications are submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the licensing authority, for consideration. Where an application is made on the basis of wildfire risk reduction, the Fire and Rescue Service may be asked by DEFRA to provide professional advice to support. This advice should focus on the wildfire elements of the submission including whether the proposed land management practices, which may include burning forms part of a coherent Wildfire Management Plan. Whether it is likely to reduce wildfire risk or severity, whether the proposed control measures are credible, and whether the activity could be undertaken without creating unacceptable risk to communities, firefighters, the environment, infrastructure or wider emergency response arrangements.
- 2.61 The FRS assessment should therefore be limited to operational wildfire risk and response considerations rather than broader land management approval. In responding to DEFRA, WYFRS review and comment on the Wildfire Management Plan and supporting documents to consider the location and scale of the proposed plan. This includes burning and other options for fuel reduction, fuel loading and continuity, access and water supplies, weather, fire danger assessment, ignition and suppression controls, contingency arrangements, notification and communication arrangements, impact on local fire cover, and the applicant's arrangements for competent personnel, equipment and supervision. Any advice should clearly state whether the Service supports, does not support, or supports with conditions the proposed activity from a wildfire risk perspective.

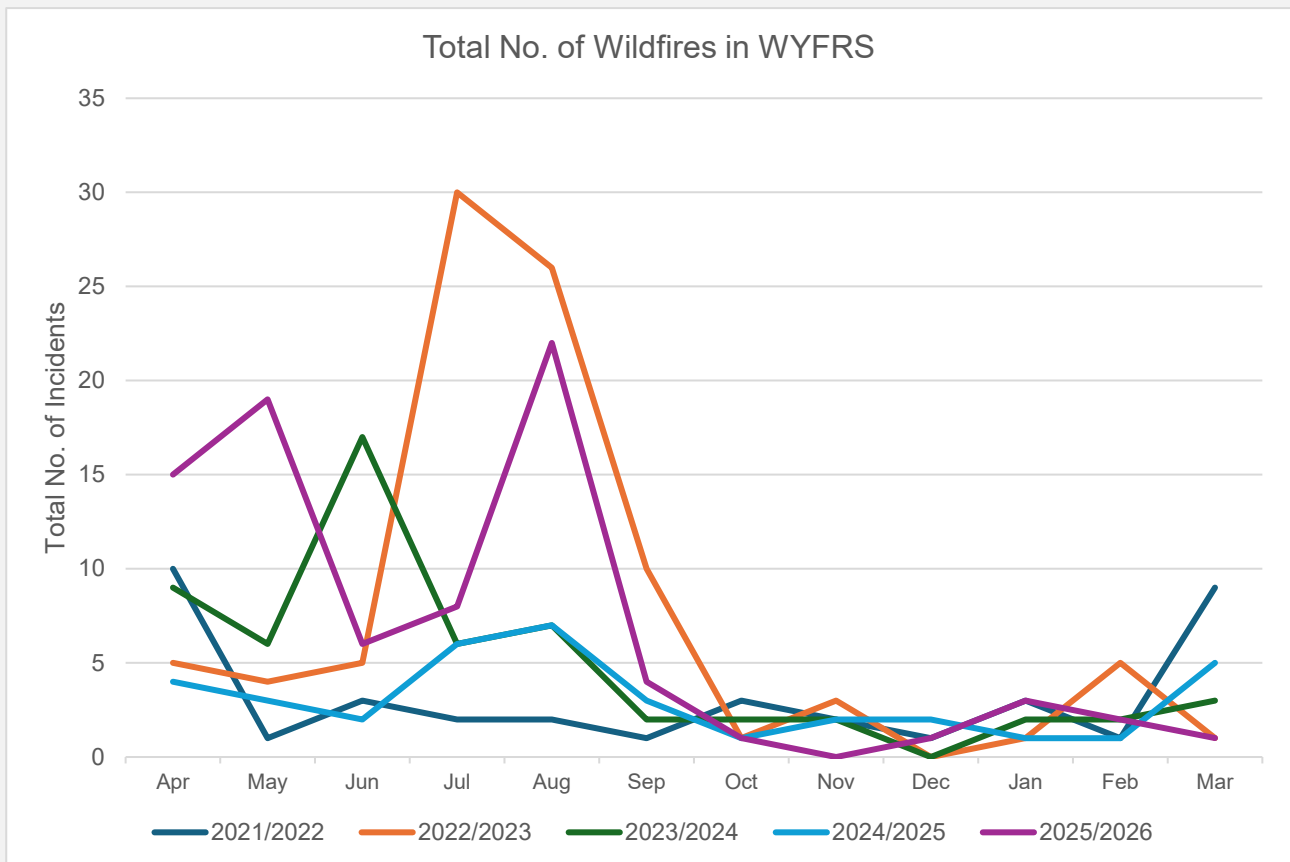
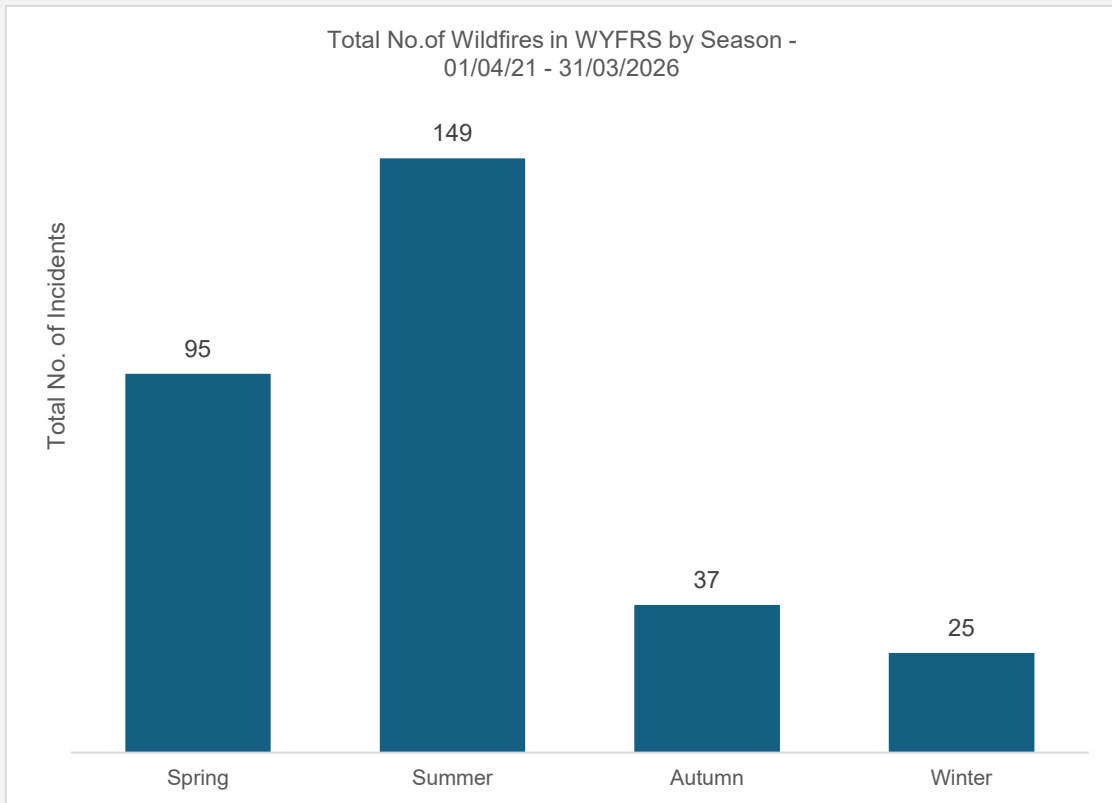
2.62 WYFRS Incident Data

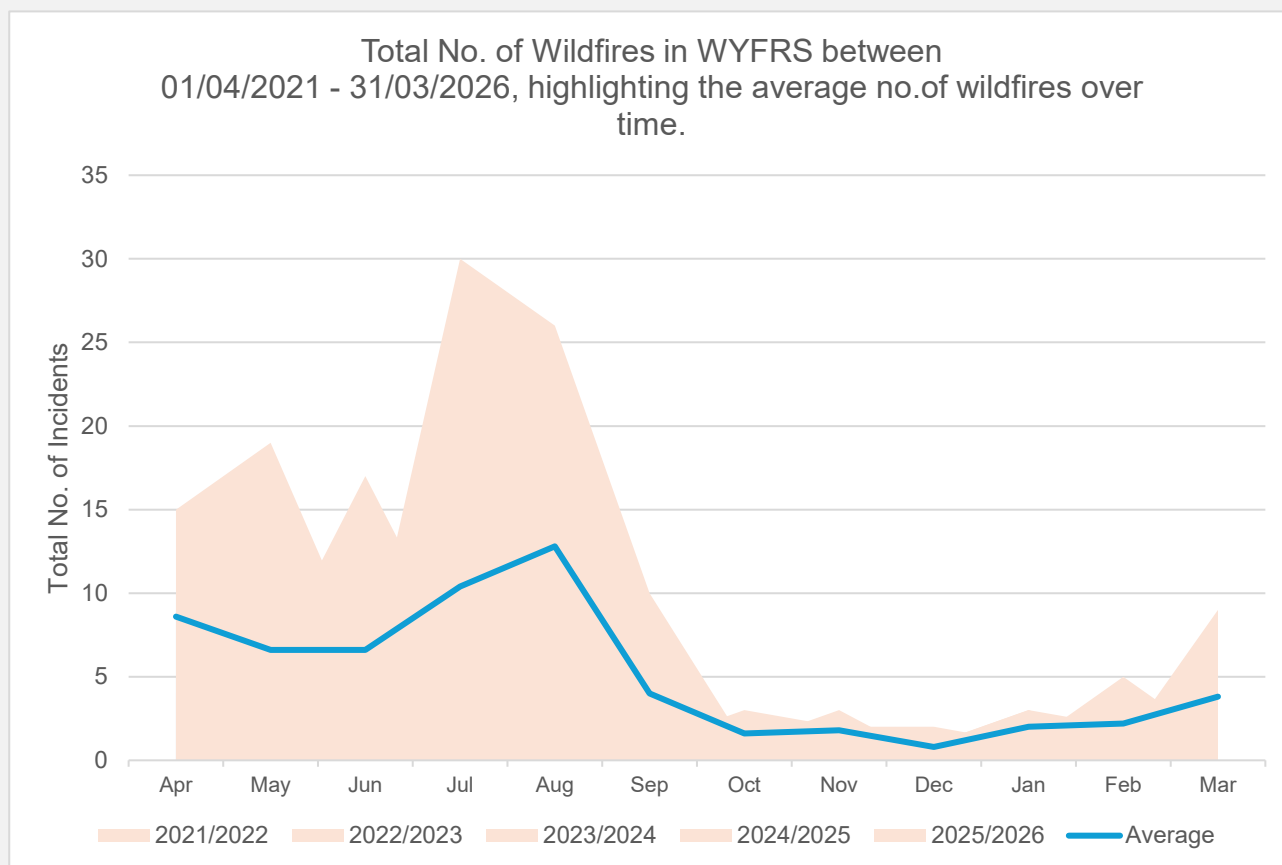
- 2.63 A wildfire is defined within NFCC National Operational Guidance as “any uncontrolled vegetation fire where a decision or action is needed about its suppression”. A wildfire will meet one or more of the following criteria:
- Involves a geographical area of at least one hectare (10,000 square metres).
 - Has a sustained flame length of more than 1.5 metres.
 - Requires a committed resource of at least four fire and rescue service appliances/resources.
 - Requires resources to be committed for at least six hours.
 - Presents a serious threat to life, environment, property, and infrastructure.

- 2.64 Our data indicates that climate change and land management practices of rural landscapes are increasing the risk of severe wildfires across the region. Warmer wetter weather in the winter is allowing for larger accumulations of vegetation. This large fuel volume is vulnerable to fire during spring when we experience lower relative humidity and strong winds, which following an ignition source often leads to a rapid propagation of fire.
- 2.65 In summer months during prolonged periods of dry weather, drought, low relative humidity and higher air temperatures, moorland and arable crops are vulnerable to ignition which can again, lead to a rapid fire development and spread.
- 2.66 International Meteorologists and wildfire experts have advised that climate change will continue to increase fire supportive weather and drive increased fuel loads in the UK.
- 2.67 We previously completed analysis on 5 financial years data (April 2019 to March 2024) to support the development of the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), [Your Fire and Rescue Service 2025-28](#). The below refreshed data covers the period April 2021 to March 2026.
- 2.68 In this period WYFRS responded to a significant number of incidents that met the above classification as a wildfire. The greatest frequency and severity can be seen in the southwest of the county in the moorland areas around Marsden and Meltham, within Kirklees District. However, many areas of the service have seen fires meeting the above criteria.

Wildfire Incidents within West Yorkshire (01/04/2021 – 31/03/2026)





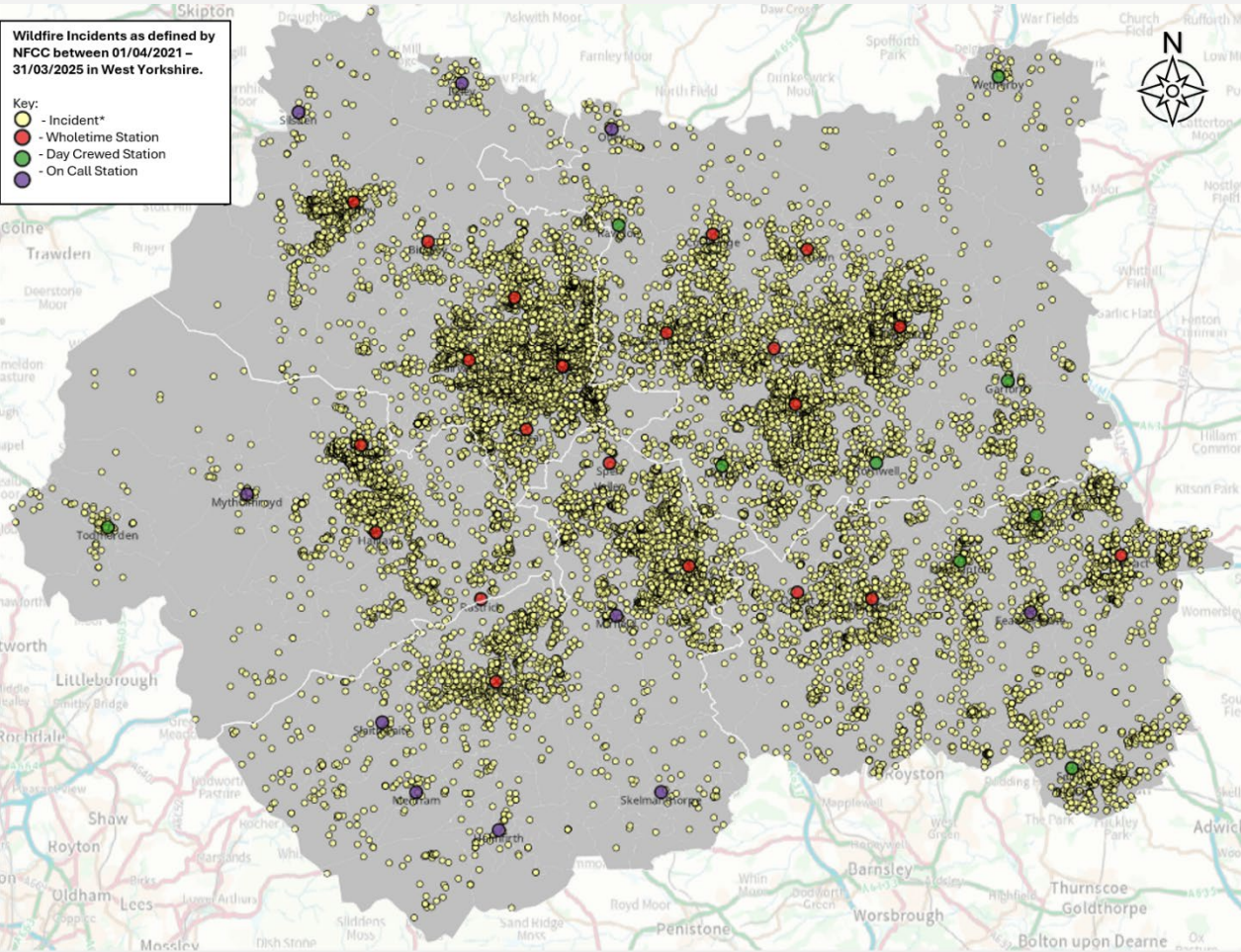


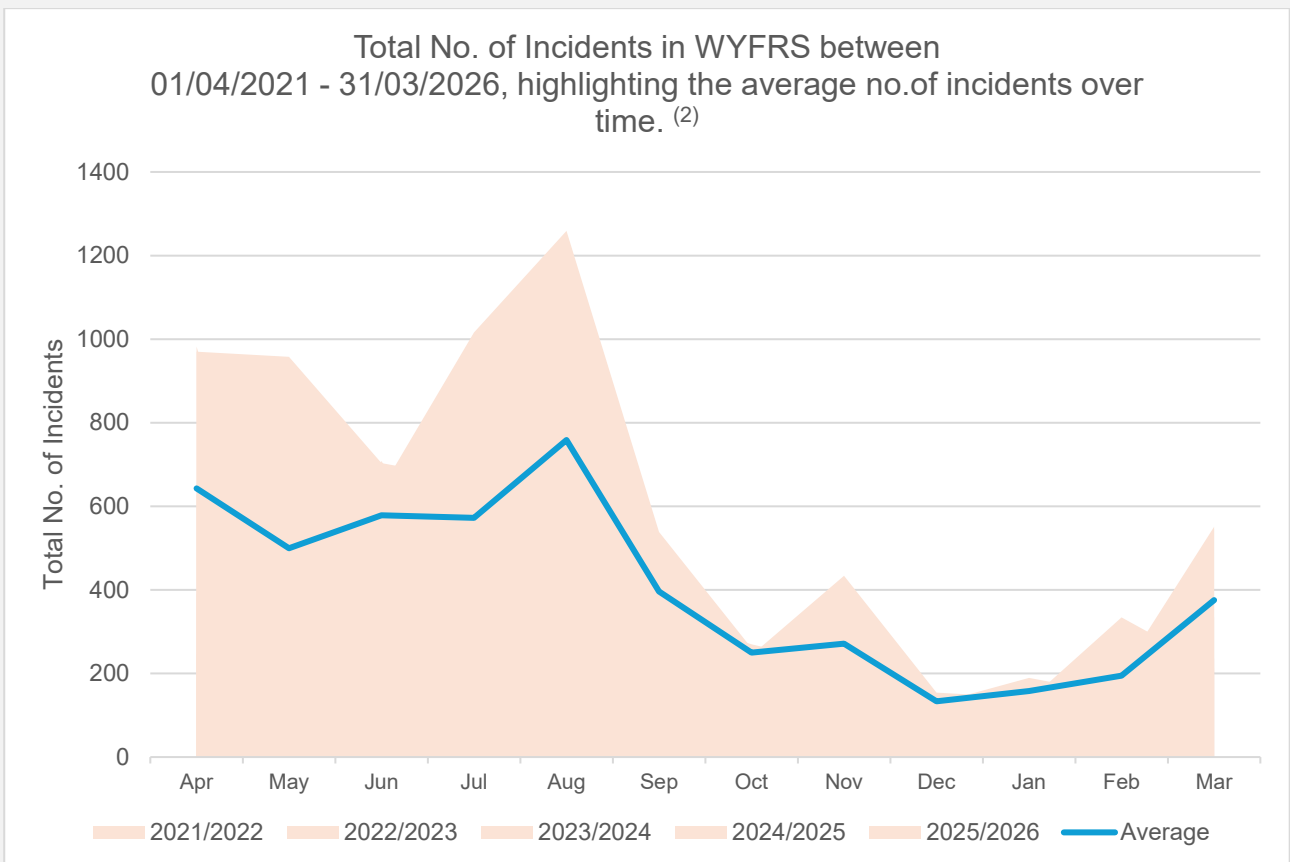
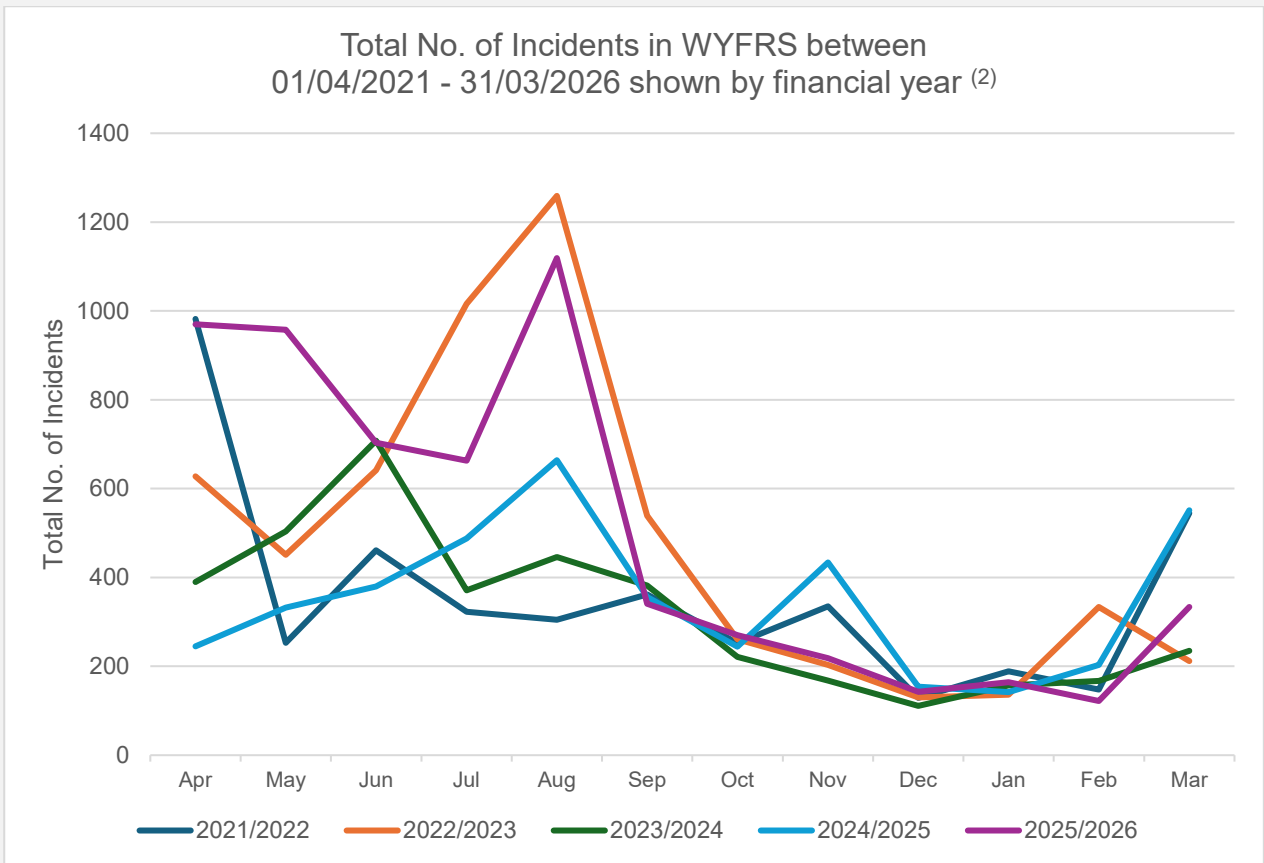
2.69 To fully understand the risk facing WYFRS we also looked at all outdoor fires across the same period (April 2021 to March 2026). These did not meet the above threshold to be formally classified as a wildfire but provides a more comprehensive analysis of the vegetation risk across the county.

2.70 As can be seen in the below there is significant operational activity across the service from outdoor/vegetation fires.⁽¹⁾

[†] The map and below two charts depict the total number of incidents between 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2026 whereby the following applies: IncidentCategory = Fire AND PropertyCategory IS Grassland, woodland, crops OR Outdoor/Other outdoors (including land).

The map and charts below show the total number of outdoor fires between 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2026

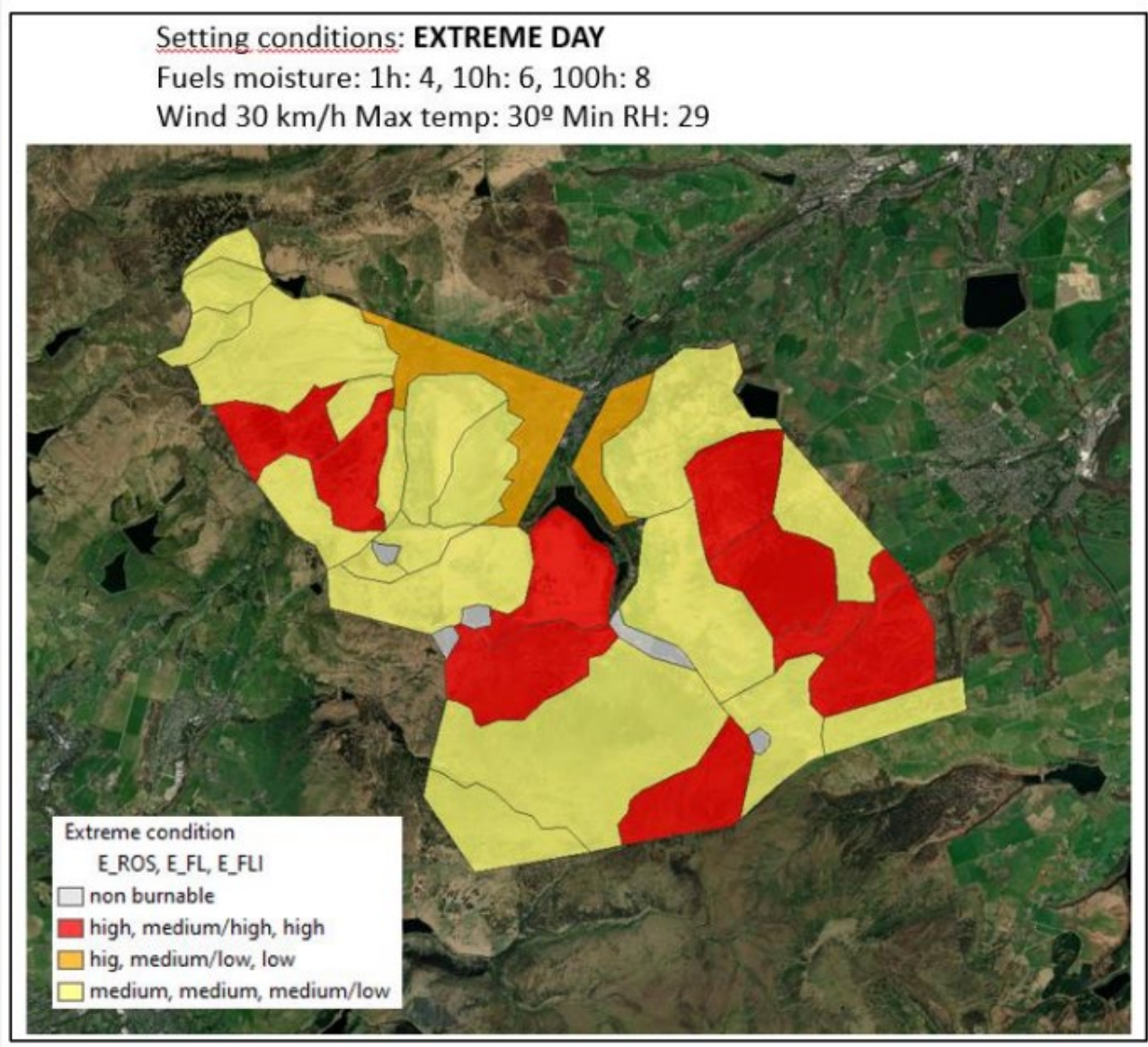




⁽²⁾

² Line chart depicts the total number of incidents between 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2026 whereby the following applies:
IncidentCategory = Fire AND PropertyCategory IS Grassland, woodland, crops OR Outdoor/Other outdoors (including land).

2.71 Following the heightened activity in 2022, we commissioned a detailed analysis of the risk profile of the Meltham/Marsden area during periods of highly fire supportive weather. This indicates that should a fire breakout in these conditions, it has the potential to be beyond the control of WYFRS and our current wildfire capabilities. Meaning that like many other areas of the UK, should this type and size of fire occur, we would need the assistance of other services, both regionally and nationally.



2.72 Overview of Operation HELIOS

2.73 Following the prolonged period of hot, dry weather and limited rainfall, which resulted in an increase of incidents from mid-July to mid-August. We implemented Operation HELIOS between 12th and 16th August 2026 to manage and mitigate the foreseeable risks associated with increased wildfire risk, heightened operational demand and reduced operational resilience.

2.74 The operation was developed in response to lessons identified from the preceding period of dry weather, during which elevated incident levels and wildfire activity placed considerable pressure on service resources, including several occasions

where demand was outstripping capacity (See Appendix 2 for further details). On these occasions we used regional assistance to maintain limited emergency fire cover and on the 8th August 2026 WYFRS declared a Major Incident due to extremely high operational activity and demand, again regional assistance was sought to maintain emergency fire cover.

- 2.75 Operation HELIOS provided a structured framework for command, control and resilience, incorporating strategic and tactical command oversight, an Operational Support Cell, dynamic fire cover arrangements, firefighter welfare measures, Fire Control resilience, partner engagement and escalation protocols linked to appliance availability.
- 2.76 During the five-day operational period, WYFRS responded to 761 incidents whilst managing the impacts of elevated wildfire risk, severe weather conditions and wider regional and national operational pressures. During this time, Appliance availability reduced to a minimum of 16 appliances, this was significantly higher than the preceding weeks, due to the earlier intervention, proactive resource management, daily operational briefings, graduated mobilisation derogations and dynamic fire cover arrangements to maintain emergency response capability across West Yorkshire.
- 2.77 The Operational Support Cell acted as the central coordination point for resource monitoring, decision logging, situational awareness, national resilience requests, partner engagement and welfare escalation, ensuring informed and timely decision-making throughout the operation. Firefighter welfare was treated as a critical control measure, with enhanced arrangements implemented for hydration, fatigue management, heat illness monitoring, work/rest cycles and welfare support during prolonged incidents.
- 2.78 The period also coincided with significant heat-related incident pressures being experienced across many of the UK Fire and Rescue Services, resulting in an [Emergency Alert being released by the UK Government](#) on Friday 14th August stating *“There is a very high risk of wildfires nationally. Residents, landowners and visitors should not undertake any activity that could start a fire, including disposable barbecues, firepits, garden incinerators or fireworks. Even a small flame can rapidly develop into a major wildfire placing lives, homes, businesses and emergency responders at risk”*.
- 2.79 Numerous large and complex wildfires occurred simultaneously across the country and devolved administrations and in doing so, placed considerable demand on National Resilience resources. WYFRS received numerous requests for assistance through regional and National Resilience arrangements, all of which were dynamically assessed by the HELIOS tactical and strategic command team against local risk and resource availability. As a result, the Service was able to provide support to significant wildfire incidents in Derbyshire, Greater Manchester, Cambridgeshire, Hampshire, West Midlands and Suffolk, whilst continuing to maintain appropriate emergency response cover within West Yorkshire.

2.80 Operation HELIOS successfully demonstrated the effectiveness of the Service's resilience arrangements, the professionalism and adaptability of its personnel, and WYFRS's ability to balance local operational risk with its contribution to regional and national resilience during a period of exceptional demand.

2.81 Throughout this period, we requested and provided cross-border mutual aid through standing Section 13/16 agreements with various services including South Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, Manchester and Lancashire.

2.82 Learning from across this period remains ongoing at a local and national level, initial learning and key outcomes are:

- Operation HELIOS demonstrated that the more pro-active nature of the command-and-control arrangements maintained a higher number of appliances available for fire cover than in the preceding weeks.
- WYFRS maintained an operationally resilient emergency response during elevated heat, wildfire risk, and national pressure.
- The Operational Support Cell enabled structured monitoring, coordination, escalation, and decision logging.
- Dynamic fire cover and graduated mobilisation measures protected life-risk response capability.
- Mutual aid decisions balanced wider sector support with local risk and available fire cover.
- Firefighter and Control welfare were integrated into command briefings and operational decisions.
- Regional and national situational awareness was maintained through partners, neighboring services, and National Resilience.

2.83 National Resilience and Mutual Aid Support

2.84 The summer period saw significant operational activity occurring simultaneously across multiple regions of the UK, resulting in numerous National Resilience requests for both operational resources and specialist teams/equipment. Requests included personnel, wildfire appliances, logistics support and substantial quantities of firefighting equipment to support prolonged incidents. This demonstrates the increasing scale of wildfire-related pressures being experienced nationally and highlights the importance of maintaining resilient wildfire and other specialist capability within WYFRS whilst continuing to support wider National Resilience arrangements. Appendix 2 shows incident data for WYFRS.

2.85 Each request was assessed against the backdrop of our own increased demand and risk. Support was provided where operational capacity allowed, whilst ensuring West Yorkshire maintained an appropriate level of emergency response capability. Assistance included:

- Cambridgeshire – Deployment of an Enhanced Logistics Support (ELS) vehicle and four operators to support extended wildfire operations.

- Derbyshire – Deployment of ELS team and vehicle, as well as one appliance for extended period.
- Greater Manchester – Deployment of wildfire resources and specialist equipment in support of significant cross-border wildfire incidents.
- Hampshire – Deployment of one appliance and a Station Manager, together with specialist wildfire equipment to support ongoing operations.
- Suffolk – Provision of additional resources and command capability to support ongoing operations.
- West Midlands Fire Service – Deployment of two pumping appliances and a Watch Commander in response to an urgent mutual aid request.

2.86 A number of additional requests were assessed but either declined or partially supported due to operational pressures within West Yorkshire and the requirement to maintain local emergency response capability. In some cases, WYFRS was able to provide specialist wildfire equipment and logistics support without deploying operational crews, allowing the Service to contribute to national resilience arrangements whilst minimising the impact on local resilience. Overall, these deployments demonstrated WYFRS's ability to support regional and national wildfire response efforts while continuing to maintain effective emergency cover for the communities of West Yorkshire.

2.87 Prevention, Public Messaging and Partner Engagement

2.88 Alongside the operational response, WYFRS maintained a strong focus on prevention, public safety messaging and partner engagement throughout the summer period. In the context of prolonged dry weather, elevated wildfire conditions and Met Office forecasts indicating sustained periods of warm temperatures, the Service delivered a coordinated programme of prevention activity aimed at reducing wildfire risk and enhancing public safety. Corporate Communications led a summer safety campaign (#BeMoorAware) promoting key messages around wildfire prevention, heat safety, water safety, responsible outdoor activities, safe use of barbeques, responsible burning practices and reducing incidents caused by preventable ignition sources.

2.89 The campaign was supported through coordinated communications with [West Yorkshire Prepared Local Resilience Forum \(LRF\)](#) for West Yorkshire and partners, ensuring consistent public safety advice was amplified across partner networks and communication channels. Messaging was targeted towards high-risk activities and locations, including open spaces, moorland areas, waterways and locations subject to repeat smoke-related calls, reinforcing the need for responsible behaviour during periods of heightened wildfire risk.

2.90 Prevention activity was further strengthened through targeted engagement by district personnel, who conducted visits to known wildfire hotspots and areas identified through operational intelligence and historical incident data. These visits provided opportunities to engage directly with local communities, landowners and partner

organisations, reinforcing wildfire prevention advice and promoting shared responsibility for reducing risk.

2.91 The Service's ongoing prevention approach supports wider community safety objectives and complements operational preparedness through increased public awareness, landowner engagement and the use of community risk information to target future interventions.

2.92 Key Future Risks and Considerations

2.93 Whilst local and national learning is ongoing with regard to this specific period, the following list of risks and considerations are already being considered and planned for:

- The increasing frequency, duration, and severity of heightened/severe fire-supportive weather and wildfire conditions (See [National Risk Register 2026](#) that outlines the most serious risks facing the United Kingdom, Chapter 4 Wildfire, pages 161-163)
- Simultaneous national demand reducing the availability of mutual aid and specialist resources.
- Sustained pressure on Control, front-line resource availability, specialist vehicles, equipment and trained personnel.
- The need for continued investment in welfare, training, fleet resilience, specialist capability, and data quality.
- The importance of prevention, public messaging, landowner engagement, partnership working and landscape-scale mitigation.
- The need to capture learning locally and nationally through informal and formal debriefing including the review of incidents, logs and other relevant data.
- Update guidance, policy, training and equipment based on the learning identified.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 Most of the summer activity was delivered through business-as-usual arrangements by District and Stations, Operational Support, Corporate Communications, Transport and other Service Delivery and Enabling teams.

3.2 Additional expenditure arose from overtime, welfare provision, specialist vehicle and equipment deployment, operational activity and National Resilience support. The increased operational response in July and August included:

Response	Amount
Cambridgeshire	£30,400
Hampshire	£11,900
Suffolk	£19,100

Derbyshire/Manchester	£98,600
West Midlands	£1,000 (estimated)
Internal/Operation HELIOS	£51,600
Equipment	£3,300 (Hose), £1,750 (Dividing breechings)
Total cost	£217,650

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution.

5. People and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 The increased operational demand, spate conditions and prolonged nature of the dry weather highlighted welfare, wellbeing & resilience risk considerations for operational crews, Control, commanders and enabling teams.
- 5.2 The impact of prolonged heat, fatigue, operational tempo and repeated availability pressures may affect staff differently depending on role, health, recovery time, exposure, caring responsibilities and access to welfare arrangements.
- 5.3 The implementation of Operation HELIOS during future high activity/spate conditions should be considered to mitigate these risks to appropriate levels.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? No

([EIA Template and Guidance](#))

- 6.2 Date EIA Completed: N/A

- 6.3 Date EIA Approved: N/A

- 6.4 The EIA is available on request from the report author or from diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk

7. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

- 7.1 Health, safety and wellbeing were primary considerations. The command structures prior to and including Operation HELIOS ensured firefighter welfare was built into command briefings, Control guidance and operational decision-making, with

emphasis on hydration, fatigue management, heat illness monitoring, emergency feeding, work/rest cycles and early welfare arrangements at protracted incidents.

- 7.2 All National Resilience deployments were supported by a nominated welfare officer. These officers were responsible for overseeing the health, safety and welfare of personnel before, during and after deployment. Additional purchasing cards were issued to teams to enable them to provide and maintain appropriate welfare provisions, ensuring firefighters remained safe, supported and operationally effective throughout the incident.

8. Environmental Implications

- 8.1 Wildfire and outdoor fire incidents can affect air quality, habitats, soil condition, carbon release, watercourses and public access to open spaces.
- 8.2 WYFRS will continue to focus on incident-specific environmental information and implications where we identify opportunities to reduce environmental impact through improved operational knowledge, understanding and decision making, prevention, early intervention, landowner engagement and specialist wildfire tactics.

9. Risk Management Implications

- 9.1 WYFRS maintained operational resilience through enhanced command arrangements, real-time resource monitoring, welfare controls, dynamic fire cover decisions and proportionate mobilisation changes.
- 9.2 Learning from across the period will be used to understand and consider what further actions should be taken to improve our future resilience and risk management, these include the following areas:
- Wildfire and outdoor fire demand can escalate quickly and become resource intensive.
 - Multiple simultaneous incidents can and did reduce county-wide fire cover.
 - Fire Control experienced increased repeat calls and demand/mobilisation pressure.
 - Mutual aid can be constrained where neighbouring, regional and nationally, services are exposed to the same conditions.
 - Operational learning should now be captured through formal debriefs and post-operation review.
 - The continued need for an increase in the WYFRS Wildfire capability and resources.
 - National Resilience and other mutual aid requests are each considered on their merits against the capacity, capability, risk and demand of the service.
- 9.3 Initial learning has been expedited through our Senior Operations Team to consider an overall increase in the specialist wildfire capability. The Senior Operations Team has approved the increase of an additional 88 front-line personnel to be trained as specialist wildfire and the uplift of two additional Wildfire ATV's and firefighting

fogging units to provide an increased response capability and further specialist training for Wildfire Officers. Funding bids and an implementation plan are currently being worked up through the Lead Wildfire Officer and Operations Support.

- 9.4 The WYFRS Strategic Risk Register is being updated to include a Spate Conditions risk that will consider the operational and broader organisational and people impacts and ongoing mitigations required to meet the recent and future challenges identified.

10. Duty to Collaborate Implications (Police and Crime Act 2017)

- 10.1 This period involved LRF partner communications, liaison and deployment into and from neighbouring FRS's and mutual aid requests from National Resilience.
- 10.2 Where required local tactical meetings were held to brief partners regarding the ongoing demand, threats and risks.
- 10.3 Future wildfire resilience should continue to involve the LRF, neighbouring FRSs, West Yorkshire Police, Yorkshire Ambulance Service, local authorities, landowners, Met Office, UKHSA, Natural England, relevant infrastructure partners and our communities.

11. Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

- 11.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2025-28 strategic priorities below:
- Provide a safe, effective and resilient response to local and national emergencies.
 - Focus our activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
 - Enhance the health, safety, and well-being of our people.
 - Prioritise a people first mindset through ethical and professional leadership and management.
 - Work with partners and communities to deliver our services.
 - Use resources in an innovative, sustainable, and efficient manner to maximise value for money.
 - Further develop a culture of excellence, equality, learning, and inclusion.

12. Conclusions

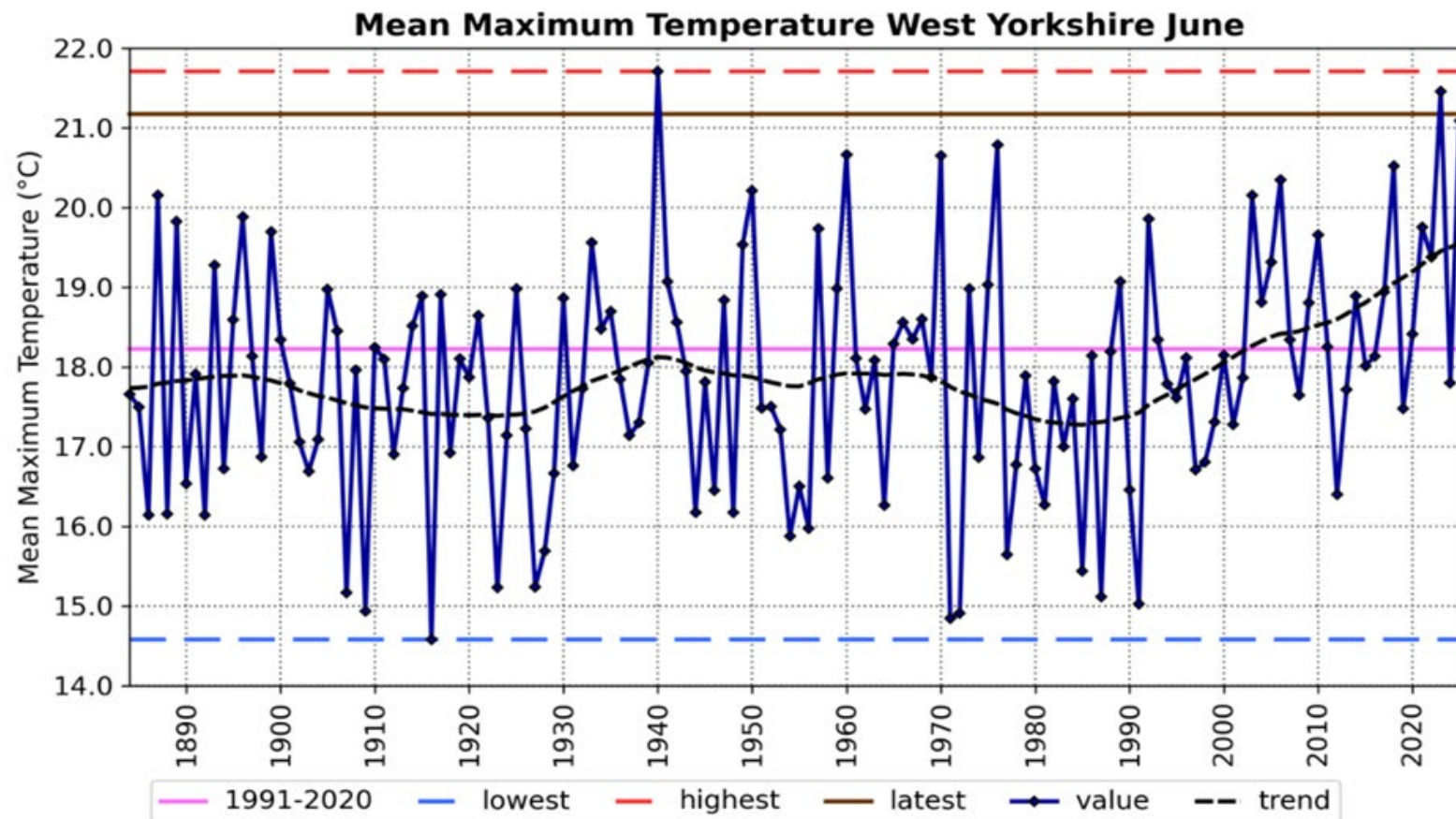
- 12.1 Summer 2026 demonstrated that prolonged dry weather interspersed with significant heat events and severe wildfire conditions can create significant operational pressure locally, regionally and nationally.
- 12.2 WYFRS saw high periods of demand that reduced operational fire cover. Through proactive command and control arrangements maintained emergency response

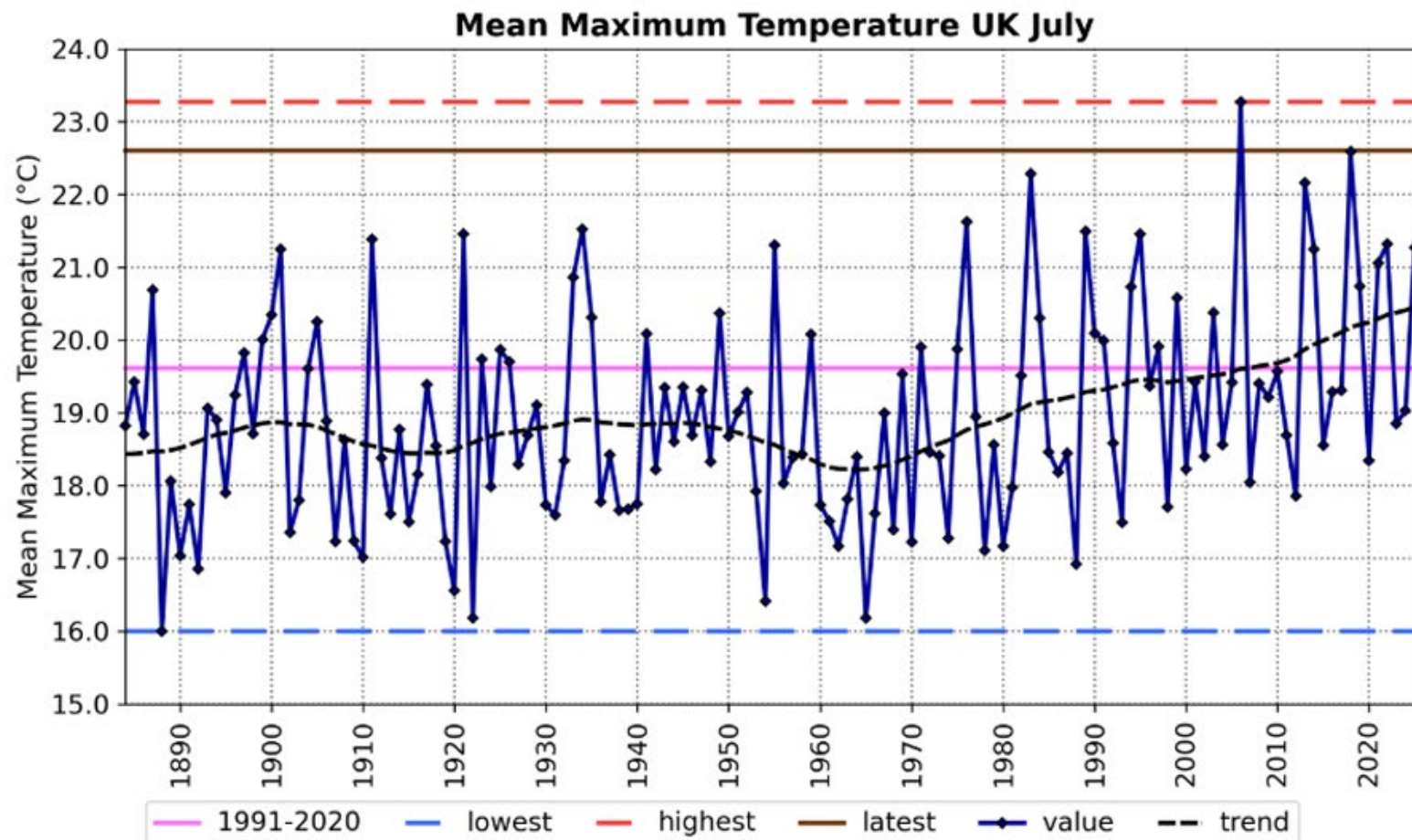
capability, protected staff welfare, supported communities and contributed to National Resilience activity while preserving appropriate fire cover within West Yorkshire.

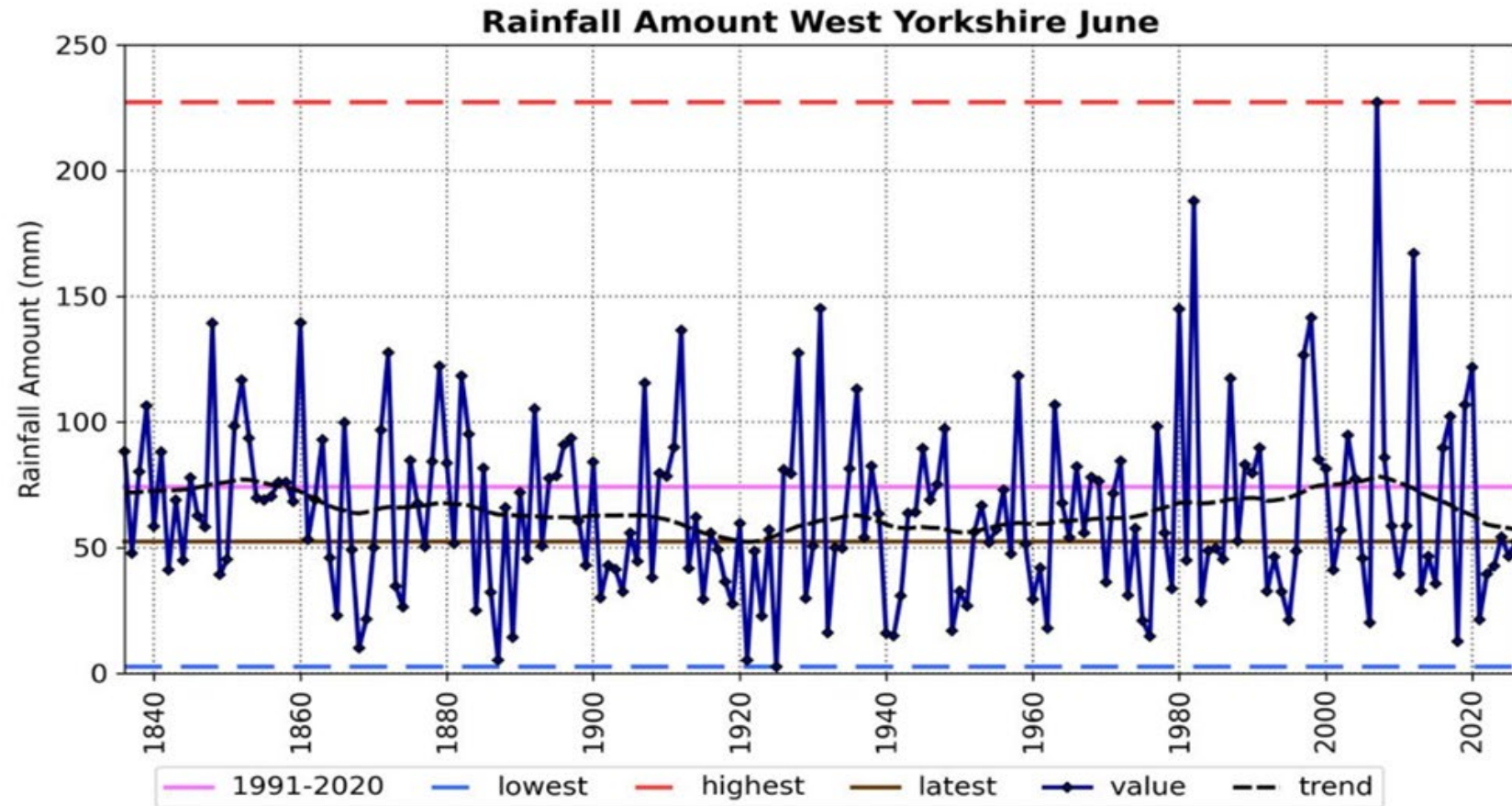
- 12.3 The services response throughout this period provides assurance that established resilience arrangements were effective and that the implementation of Operation HELIOS maintained a higher level of response capability. However, it also reinforces the importance of continued investment in specialist capability and increased capacity, prevention, partnership working and data quality.
- 12.4 Formal debrief and post-operation review will be used to capture learning and inform future planning, policy, and investment decisions.

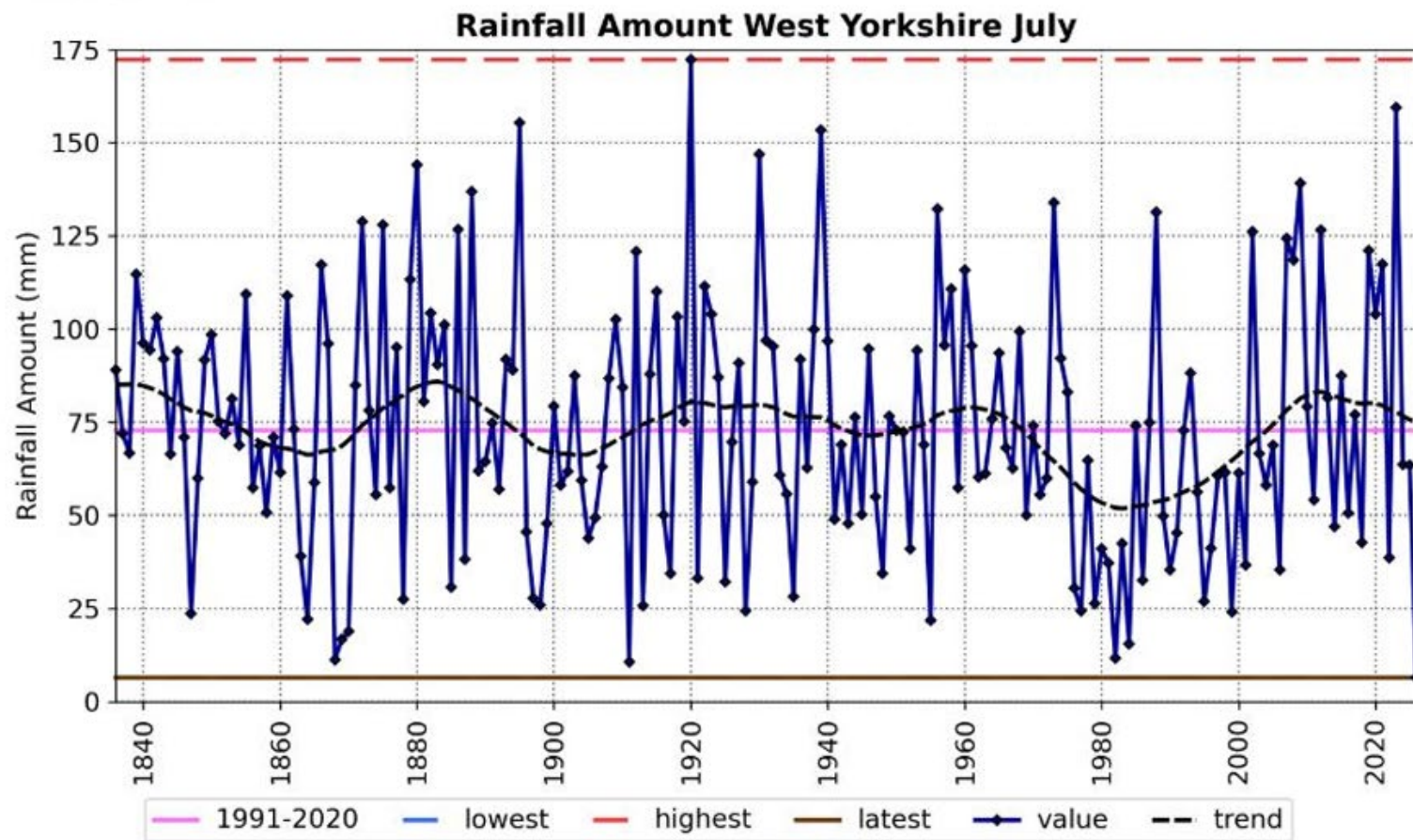
13. Appendix 1: Met Office Data

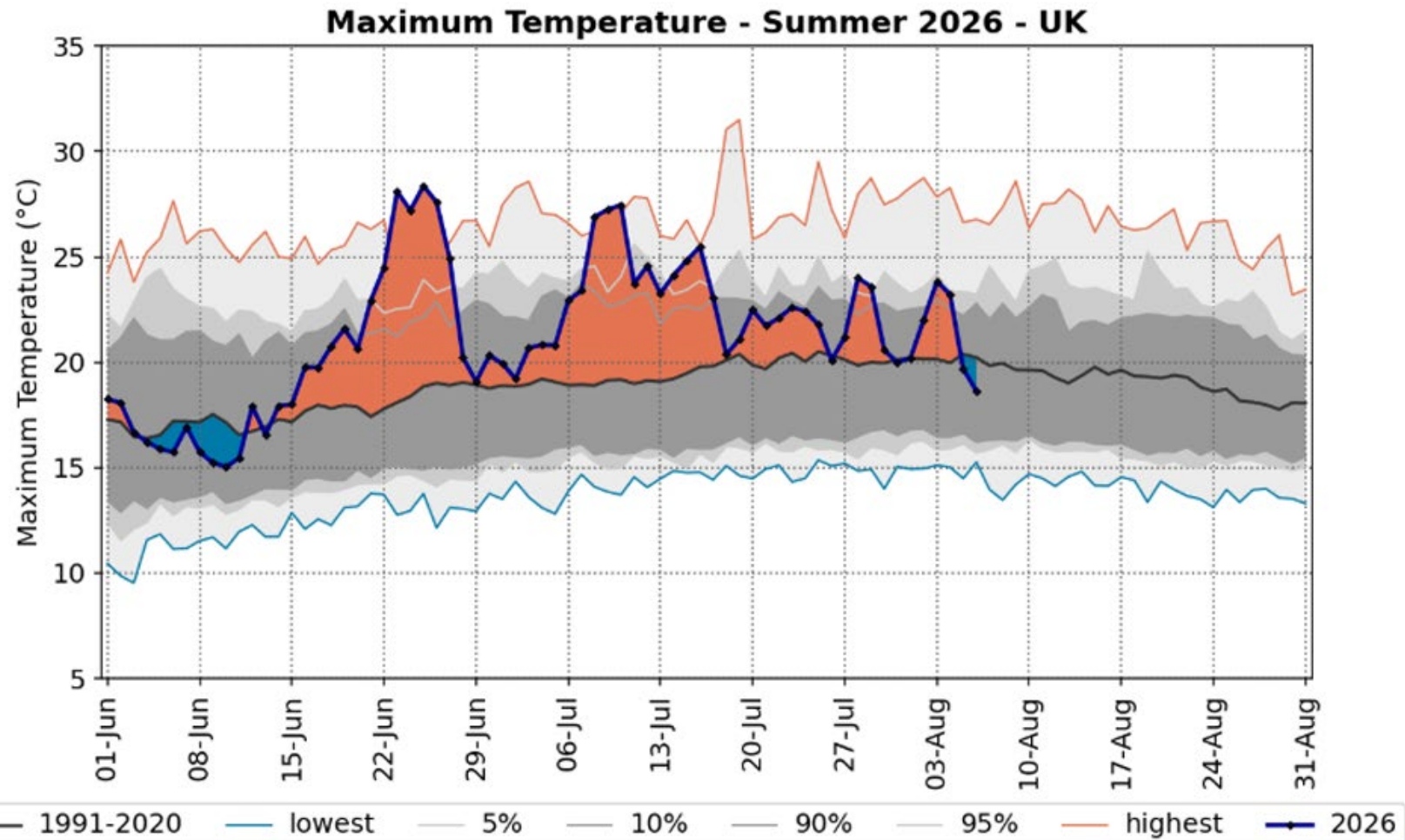






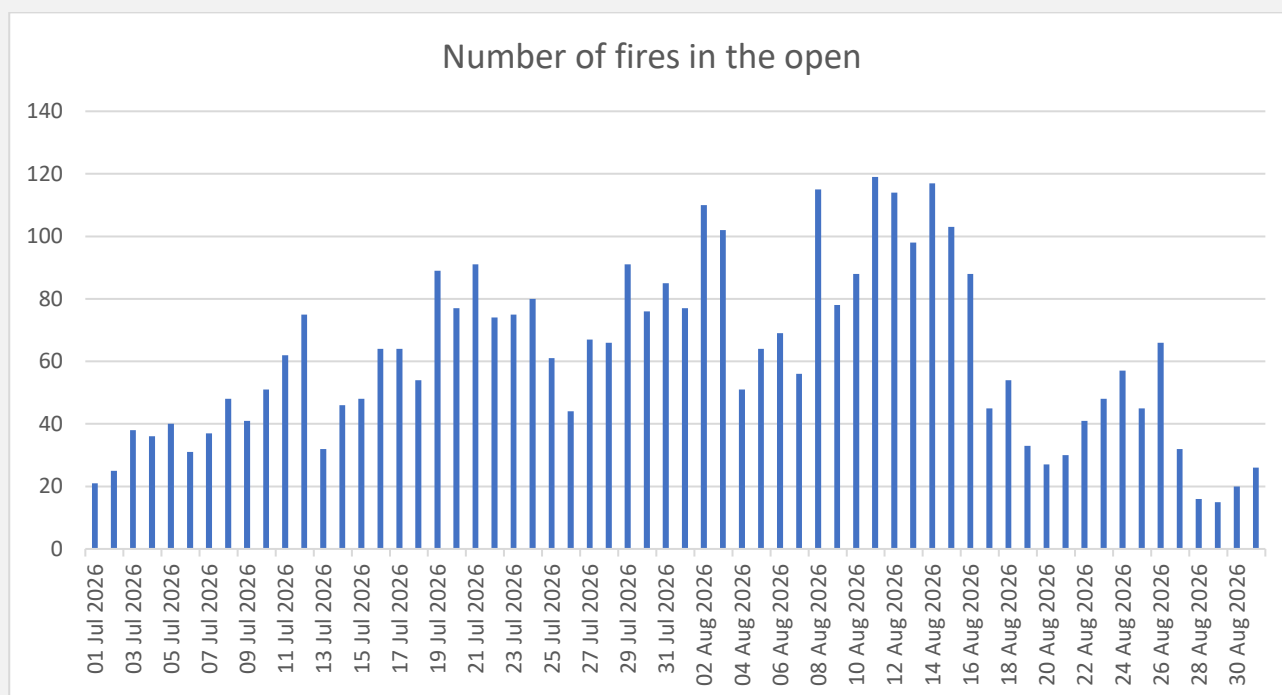






14. Appendix 2: WYFRS Data 1st July to 31st August 2026

Over the period 1st July to 31st August WYFRS attended over 3500 fires in the open and 55 NFCC Categorised Wildfires. WYFRS attended 6852 incidents in total during this period.



Incidents generally increased through July and reached their highest levels in early to mid-August. August recorded 2,004 incidents (64.6 per day), compared with 1,789 in July (57.7 per day), a 12.0% increase. The peak was 119 incidents on 11 August, with four of the five busiest days occurring between 8 and 14 August. Activity then dropped sharply: the average fell from 90.6 per day on 1–16 August to 37.0 on 17–31 August, reaching a low of 15 on 29 August.

WYFRS reported 55 wildfires to National Resilience during this period. Many of these were multi day and multi pump incidents.

The following graphs show a weekly representation of the pumps available/remaining vs the number of incidents on going. The X-axis (horizontal line) shows the dates/period. The Y-axis (vertical line) shows the number of Appliances from 45 down to 0 and the number of incidents from 0 up to 45.

The dark blue line shows the total number of pumps on the run. The light blue line shows the actual number of remaining available. The orange line shows the number of incidents ongoing.

No. Incidents Ongoing v.s Pump Availability
01/07/26 - 05/07/26

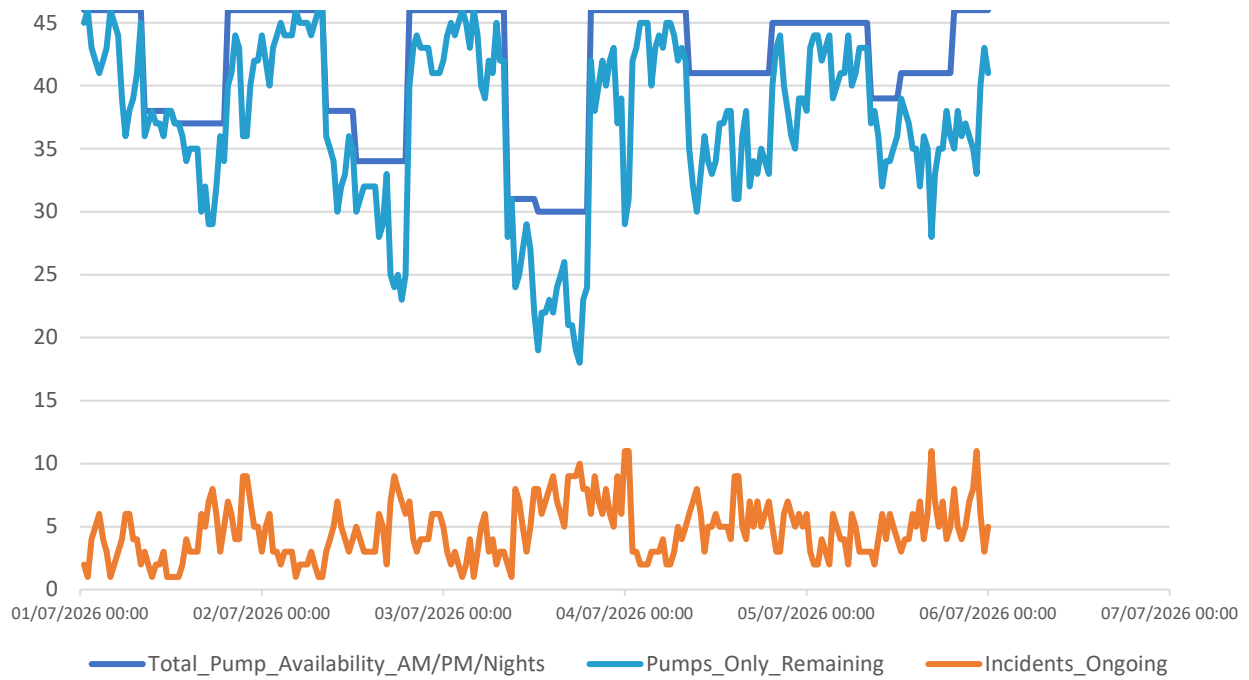


Chart No. Incidents Ongoing v.s Pump Availability
06/07/26 - 12/07/26

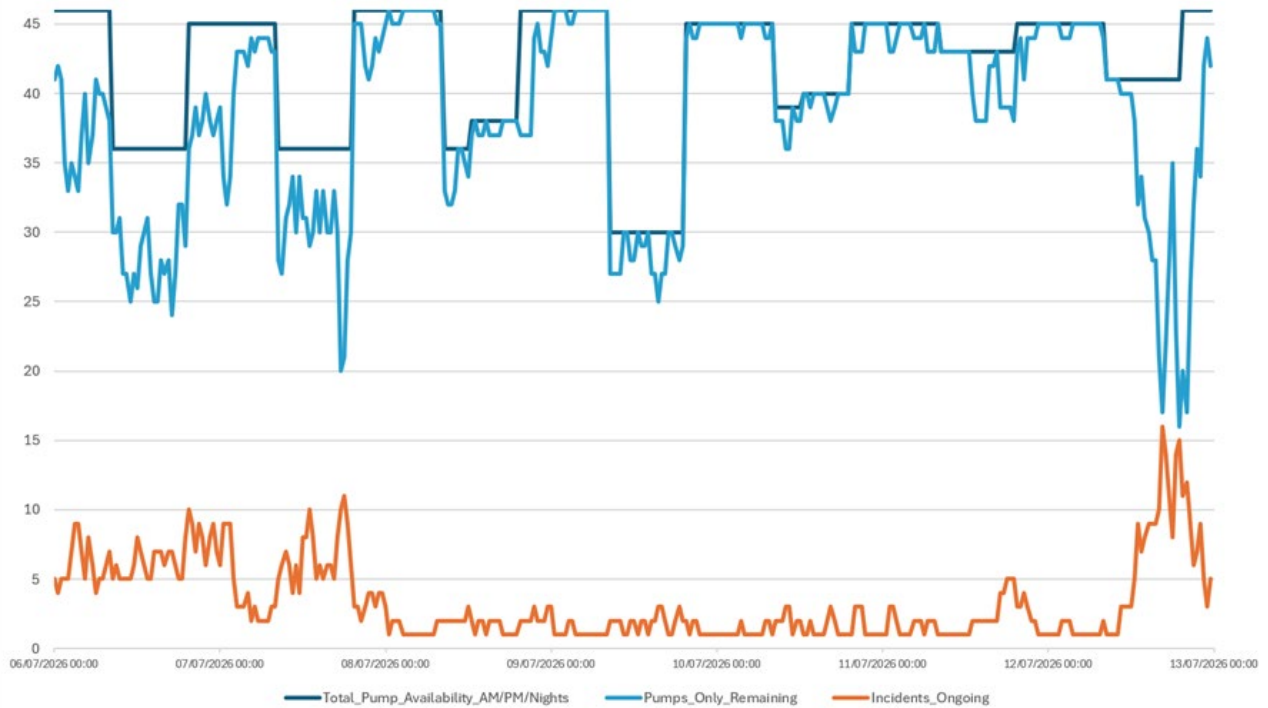


Chart No. Incidents Ongoing v.s Pump Availability
13/07/26 - 19/07/26

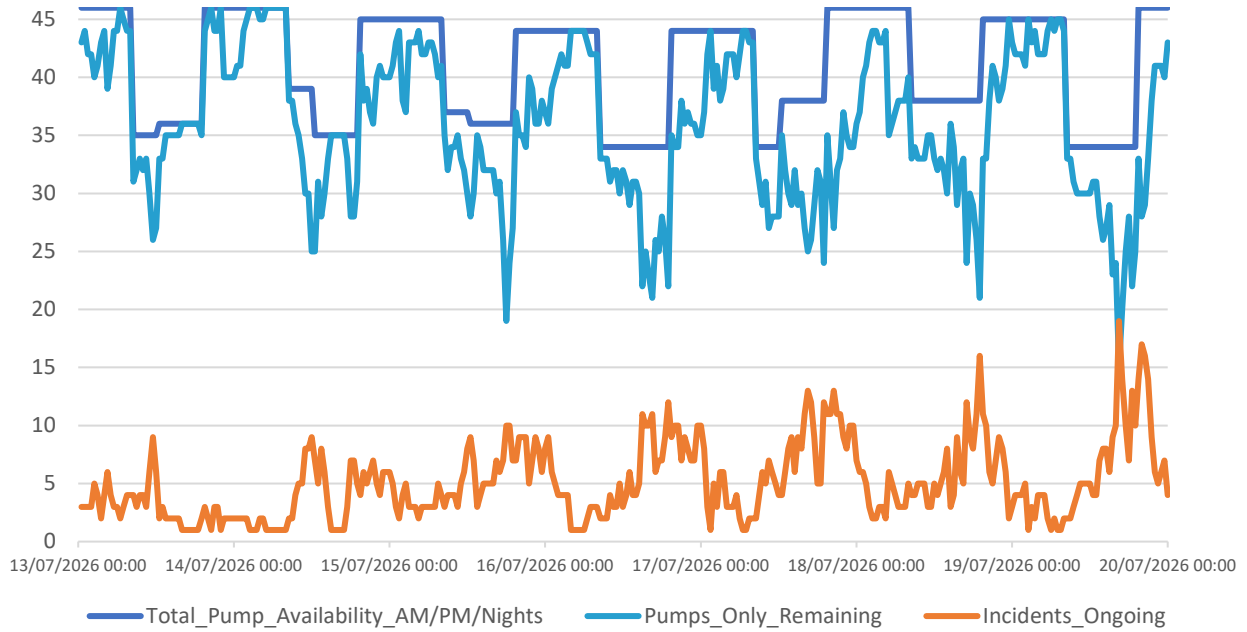


Chart No. Incidents Ongoing v.s Pump Availability
20/07/26 - 26/07/26

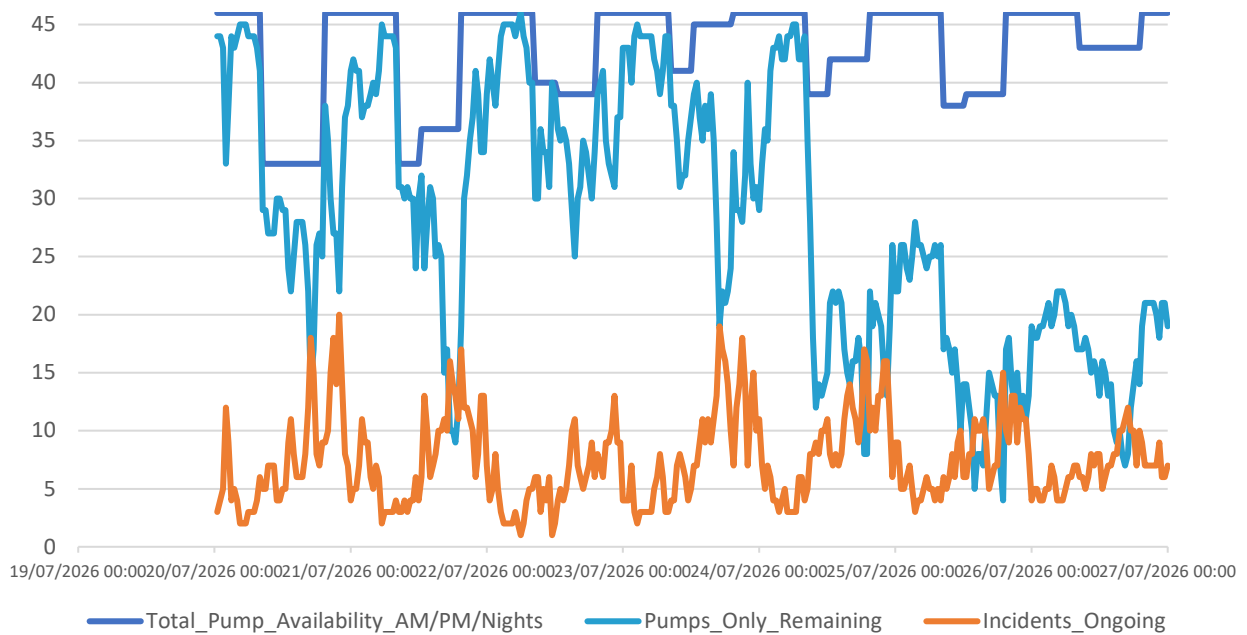
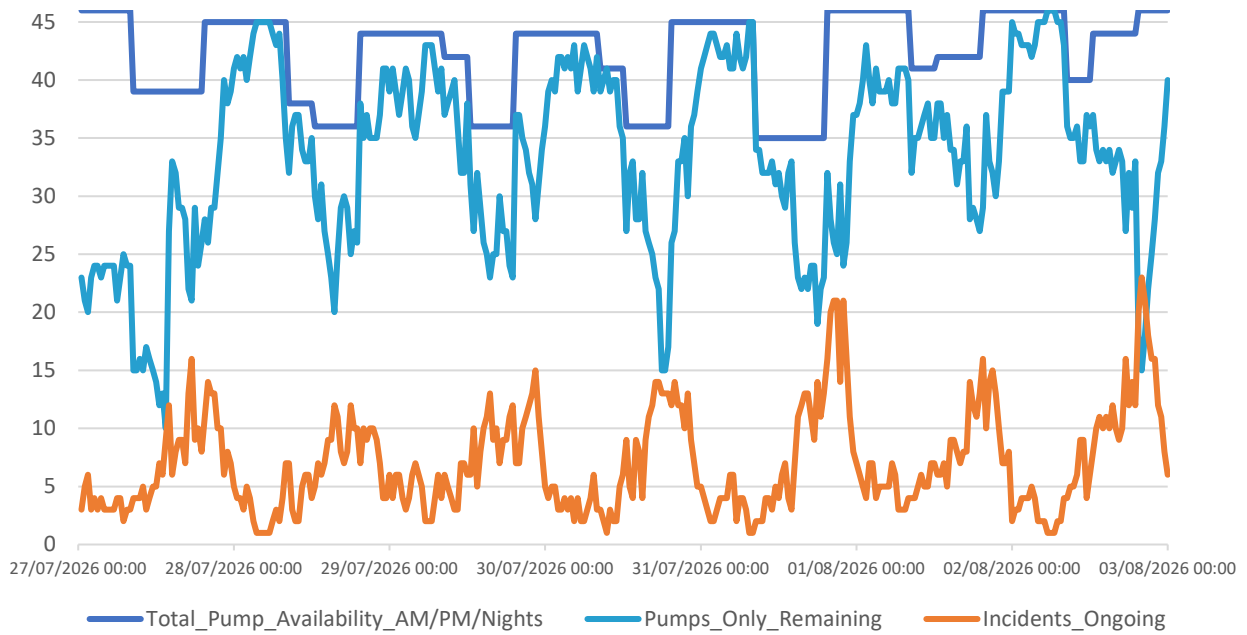
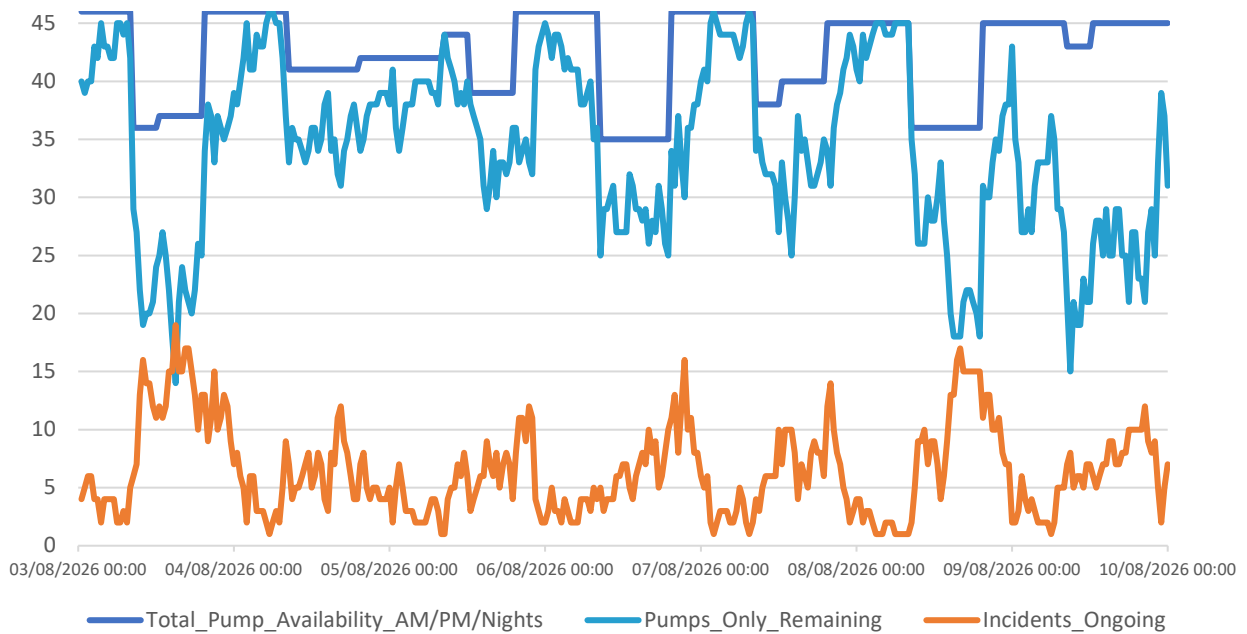


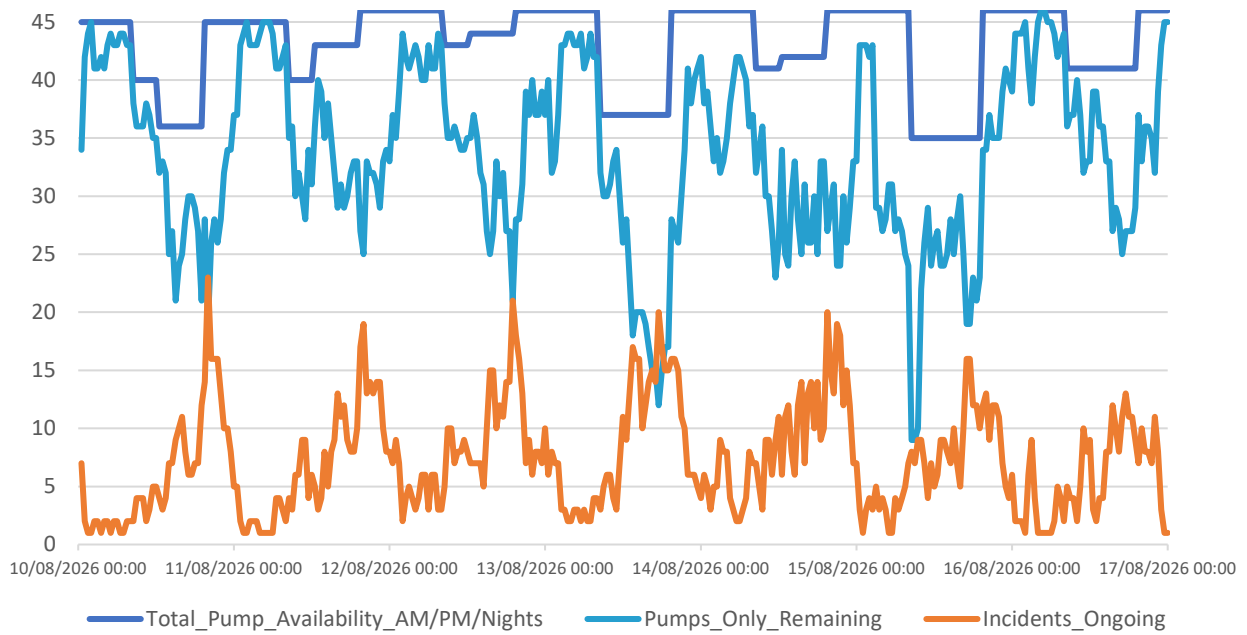
Chart No. Incidents Ongoing v.s Pump Availability
27/07/26 - 02/08/26



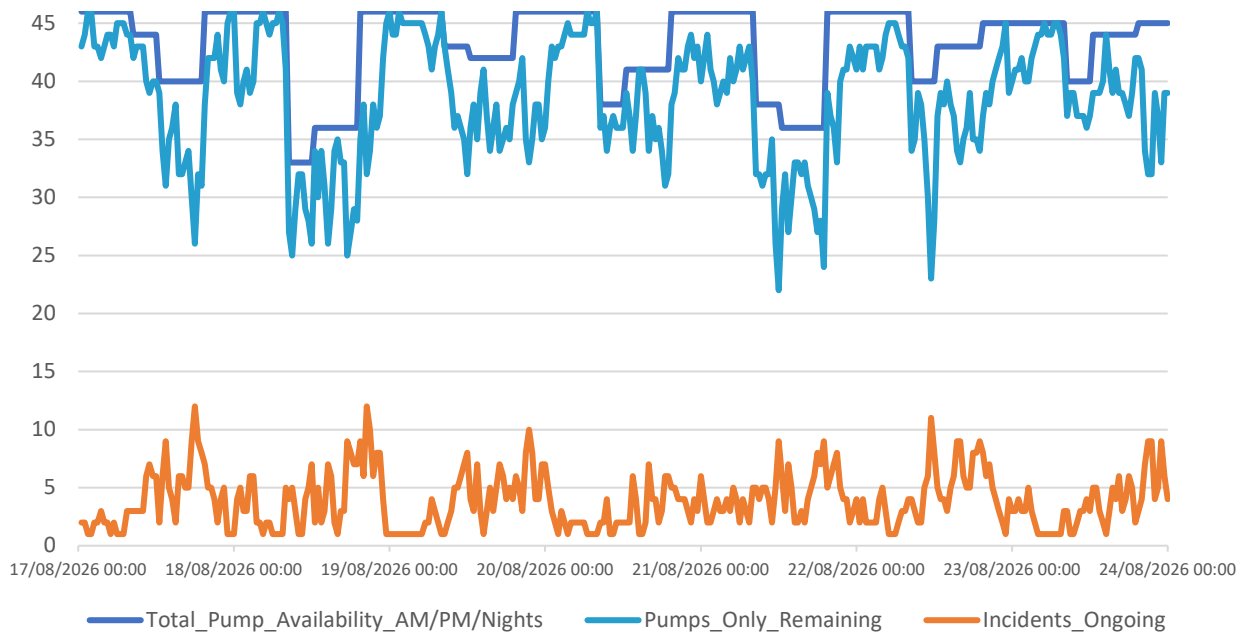
No. Incidents Ongoing v.s Pump Availability
03/08/26 - 09/08/26

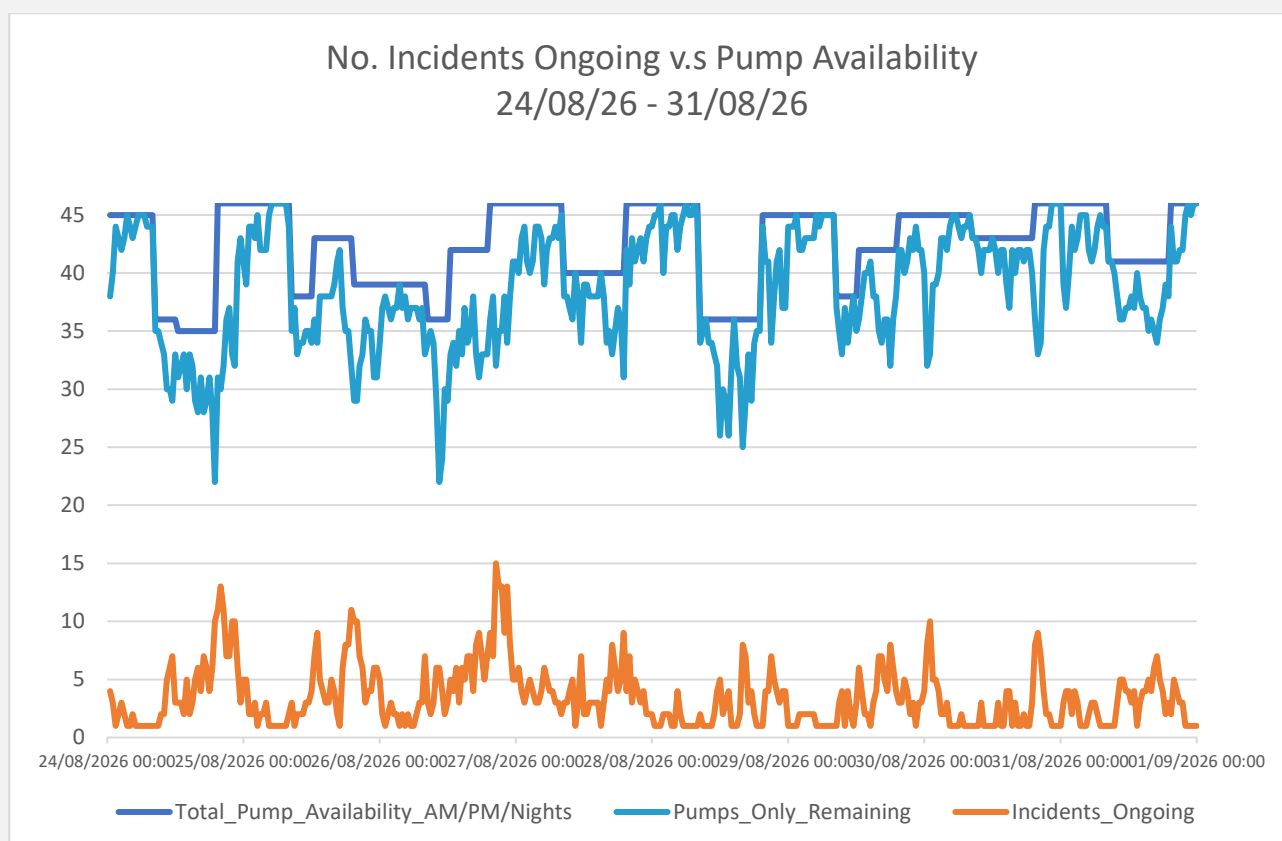


No. Incidents Ongoing v.s Pump Availability
10/08/26 - 16/08/26



No. Incidents Ongoing v.s Pump Availability
17/08/26 - 23/08/26





Overall, the graphs demonstrate that appliance availability remained relatively stable during normal levels of demand but reduced sharply during periods involving significant numbers of incidents or several incidents occurring concurrently.

Across the full reporting period, total pump availability generally remained between 30 and 46 appliances, averaging approximately 42.3. The number of available pumps remaining averaged 35.4 but fell as low as 4 during the most resource-intensive period (25 July). This indicates that, although the Service usually retained a substantial level of operational capacity, there were short periods when resilience was placed under significant pressure.

The clearest period of pressure occurred between 20 and 26 July. During this week, an average of 14.6 pumps were deployed at any one time, compared with between 2.3 and 5.0 during the earlier weeks of July. Average remaining pump availability reduced to 28.2, with a low point of just 4 appliances on 25 July. The charts indicate that this was linked to a prolonged incident beginning on 24 July, alongside other incidents continuing across the same period. At the point of lowest availability, 35 pumps were committed, 15 incidents were ongoing and 11 incidents were occurring concurrently. This shows that the greatest pressure resulted from the combined effect of a large-scale incident and wider background demand, rather than incident numbers alone.

Demand remained elevated into the following week, 27 July to 2 August. The number of ongoing incidents peaked at 23, while concurrent incidents reached a reporting-period high of 15. Despite this, the minimum number of pumps remaining was 10, which was higher than during the previous week. This suggests that incident numbers alone do not determine operational pressure. The scale, duration and pump requirement of individual incidents have a significant influence on the level of cover retained.

A further period of increased demand is visible between 10 and 16 August. Average pump deployments increased to 9.4, and remaining availability fell to a minimum of 9. This coincided with a large-scale incident on 15 August, together with several other incidents requiring multiple appliances. Although this created a clear reduction in available resources, the impact was less severe than during the late-July period, partly because the incident was shorter and overall pump availability was relatively strong.

The charts also show several shorter peaks in the number of incidents occurring at the same time. The statistical relationship between concurrent incidents and pumps deployed is positive, but not exact. Some periods with a high number of concurrent incidents produced only a moderate reduction in pump availability because many incidents required relatively few appliances. Conversely, a single large or prolonged incident could commit a substantial part of the available fleet even when the overall number of incidents was lower.

The weekly charts show that demand reduced during the latter part of August. Between 17 and 23 August, average pump deployment fell to 4.6 and the minimum number remaining improved to 22. Between 24 and 31 August, average deployment reduced further to 3.9, with the minimum remaining again at 22. This indicates a return to a more typical operating position following the periods of sustained pressure in mid-July to mid-August.

Taken together, the charts demonstrate that WYFRS generally maintained a reasonable level of pump availability throughout the period. However, they also identify several short but significant reductions in operational headroom. The most notable occurred in late July, when a prolonged large-scale incident coincided with high levels of wider activity and reduced the number of pumps remaining to 4. The analysis reinforces that operational resilience should not be assessed solely by counting incidents. The size and duration of incidents, the number of appliances committed, concurrent demand and the level of baseline availability all need to be considered together.

OFFICIAL

Agenda item: 14

Environmental Working Group Activities 2025-26

Full Authority

Date: 25 September 2026

Submitted by: Head of Corporate Services

Purpose: To inform Members of the activities of the Environmental Working Group during 2025/26.

Recommendations: That Members note the report.

Summary: This report provides Members with an update on the activities of the Environmental Working Group.

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

Contact Officer: Alison Davey, Head of Corporate Services.
Tel: 01274 682311
Email: alison.davey@westyorksfire.gov.uk

Background papers open to inspection: None

Annexes: Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025-28
Our Roadmap to a Sustainable Future 2025-28
Environmental Sustainability Strategy Annual Report 2025-26

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 2007 the Corporate Services department set up an Environmental Working Group (EWG) to discuss environmental issues as part of the continuous improvement agenda for the Service.
- 1.2 An Environmental Policy and Conservation Guide was also introduced to promote environmental issues. In 2021 the Environmental Policy was replaced by the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan.

2. Information

- 2.1 The Environmental Working Group meet on a quarterly basis and each meeting is attended by representatives from all directorates.
- 2.2 Many environmental initiatives have been introduced and the following provides an overview of the work of the Group.

2.3 Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025-2028

WYFRS is committed to safeguarding the environment and reducing our impact through continuous improvement of systems and processes. Leading this work, the Environmental Working Group has driven the implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025-2028, with a strong focus on reducing environmental impact, tackling climate change and meeting legislative requirements. The strategy, central to our ambition of 'Making West Yorkshire Safer' and aligned with our Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), supports our priority to work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way while protecting community safety and wellbeing. Key achievements of the strategy for 2025-26 include:

- Completion of significant estates decarbonisation projects including fully electric new-build facilities and wider energy efficiency upgrades.
- Expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the estate.
- Continued reduction in false alarms, reducing unnecessary appliance movements and associated emissions.
- Ongoing embedding of climate resilience and wildfire risk reduction into operational planning.
- Progression of carbon literacy learning resources through collaboration with national partners.
- Introduction and enhancement of environmental monitoring systems including utilities, waste and recycling data.
- Increased promotion of wellbeing, sustainable travel and staff engagement initiatives.
- Continued integration of sustainability and social value within procurement processes.

2.4 Environmental Action Plan and Annual Report

- Incorporated within the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025-28 is the action plan.
- Each action has been allocated a Responsible Officer who will provide an update of progress against each action at the Environmental Working Group meetings.
- The Environmental Sustainability Strategy Annual Report 2025-26 provides details of work undertaken and the progress to improve the management of the Service's environmental impact. This annual report demonstrates the progress made during the first full year of delivery against the Strategy and highlights the collaborative efforts of departments, managers and colleagues across the Service.

2.5 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)

The Environmental Sustainability Working Group has aligned its procedures with government legislation on environmental issues, adapting practices to reduce environmental impact. In doing so, it has also aligned its work with the UNSDGs, focusing on areas where WYFRS can contribute most effectively. In 2025/26, meaningful progress was made towards five of the seventeen goals, including:

- Research continued into the development of e-learning packages to improve staff understanding of climate change, carbon emissions and sustainable behaviours.
- Additional wildfire equipment and specialist resources were introduced to strengthen operational response capability.
- Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) usage remained consistent, with between 51 and 69 employees accessing support each quarter.
- A full programme of wellbeing presentations and webinars delivered across operational and enabling services.
- Disclosure rates remained consistent across reporting categories.
- Diversity monitoring demonstrated steady and encouraging progress across the reporting period.
- Workforce data provides stronger assurance that WYFRS is continuing to strengthen representation while maintaining operational resilience and workforce capability.





- The Environmental Sustainability Strategy and accompanying Action Plan were developed and aligned with the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) and organisational priorities.
- New recycling stations and facilities were introduced across all floors of the new FSHQ.
- Major redevelopment and refurbishment projects continue considering low-carbon technologies and renewable energy opportunities, where feasible.
- All frontline operational appliances were upgraded to Euro 6e emissions standards, with the final six appliances delivered during 2025–2026.



- Procurement processes continued incorporating sustainability, equality, inclusion and environmental considerations with a minimum 10% social value weighting applied within tender evaluations.
- Hybrid working continued across departments throughout the year, with arrangements reviewed following the transition to the new FSHQ.
- The People Strategy 2025–2028 was implemented to strengthen workforce inclusion, capability and representation.
- Workforce data provides stronger assurance that WYFRS is continuing to strengthen representation while maintaining operational resilience and workforce capability.



- Enhanced reporting arrangements now provide a stronger evidence base to support future waste reduction and recycling initiatives.
- Energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects continue supporting reductions in Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions.
- National developments in hydrogen and zero-emission emergency response vehicles continue to be monitored through NFCC and the Zero Emission Powered Appliance (ZEPA) programme.
- Climate resilience and sustainability objectives continue to be embedded within District Plans, Station Action Plans and Community Safety activity, with progress reviewed through quarterly governance arrangements.

2.6 Utilities – 2025/26

All utilities including gas, water and electricity usage are recorded on a weekly basis for all stations, District Offices and Fire Service Headquarters detailing actual

consumption for the year 2025/26. Any increase in usage is monitored by the District to ensure appropriate measures are introduced to reduce this.

The figures below are the actual total costs to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service for the three utilities compared to the previous financial year.

	Actual Cost		Increase/Decrease £	Increase/Decrease %
	2025/26	2024/25		
Electric	£828,118	£917,398	-£89,280	-10%
Gas	£315,376	£330,115	-£14,739	-4%
Water	£150,968	£153,206	-£2,238	-1%

2.7 Carbon Emissions

WYFRS remains committed to reducing carbon emissions, measured as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). Sustainability continues to be integral to the Service, providing a clear picture of our progress towards becoming more environmentally friendly. Significant steps have been taken to minimise energy use across transport, heating, lighting and to improve energy efficiency in all buildings.

2.8 EV Charging

WYFRS has installed 90 EV charging points across its sites (20 at Headquarters, 6 at Bradford, 6 at Leeds, 4 at Garforth, 4 at Illingworth, 4 at Stanningley, 4 at Pontefract, 4 at Keighley, 4 at Castleford, 4 at Moortown, 4 at Ossett, 4 at Rothwell, 2 at Mirfield, 2 at Wakefield, 2 at Rawdon, 2 at Killingbeck, 2 at Cookridge, 2 at Otley, 2 at Bingley, 2 at Morley, 2 at Fairweather Green, 2 at Normanton and 2 at Featherstone.

2.9 Cycle to work scheme

Since its launch in 2017, the WYFRS Cycle to Work Scheme has successfully encouraged more staff to take part, offering benefits such as improved physical fitness, enhanced mental wellbeing, time and cost savings, as well as contributing to environmental sustainability through reduced CO₂ emissions by cycling.

2.10 Textile and Book Recycling

The textile and book recycling scheme from April 2025 to March 2026 has raised a total of £20,298 within West Yorkshire for The Fire Fighters Charity. This has been achieved by rag banks sited at:

- Fire stations raising £18,202 (151,681 kg in weight)
- Schools and community sites raising £719 (7,186 kg in weight)

- Book banks sited at fire stations raising £1,378 (27,562 kg in weight)

2.11 Trade Waste Recycling

Wastepaper, cardboard, mixed recycling and food collections continue at stations and the numbers are reported quarterly within the Waste Recycling report.

2.12 A detailed breakdown of all other trade waste is below.

Year –2025-26	TOTAL	
	Quantity	Revenue (ex VAT)
Tyres - Reworked	28	£643.00
Tyres - recycled	26	
Oil Filters (kg)	750	
Batteries (kg)	5,626	£2,473.89
Oil (litres)	30,630	£18,917.10
Waste oil (ltrs)	205	
Anti-freeze (ltrs)		
Aerosols (kg)	100	
Fluorescent light tubes (kg)	800	
WEEE Electronics (kg)	2800	
Toner/Ink cartridges (kg)	100	
Mixed Fuel (kg)	205	
Mixed Metals (tonnes)	3,240	£438.2
Steel (tonnes)	1920	£268.80
Aluminium (tonnes)	520	£390
Refrigerators/Freezers (kg)	8	
Clinical Waste	40	
Asbestos Waste	30	
Lithium Ion batteries (kg)	112	
Alkaline/Zinc Chloride Batteries (kg)	0	

2.13 HMEPO Mobilisation of Note – 2025-26

During the period of 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026 there have been 129 mobilisations of note, none of which resulted in any significant environmental impacts.

2.14 A paragraph relating to Environmental Implications is included on every Authority Committee report to ensure that each report considers the effect on the environment and provides details of this impact.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Many of the environmental initiatives have resulted in cost savings and donations to The Fire Fighters Charity.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution.

5. People and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 There are no People and Diversity implications associated with this report.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance?: No

7. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

- 7.1 There are no health, safety and wellbeing implications associated with this report.

8. Environmental Implications

- 8.1 There no environmental implications arising directly from this report although the work of the Environmental Working Group benefits the environment and therefore supports the following:

- Fuel efficiency savings
- CO² reductions
- Power reduction
- Support climate change outcomes e.g. flood or wildfire provisions etc.

9. Risk Management Implications

- 9.1 There are no Risk Management implications associated with this report.

10. Duty to Collaborate Implications (Police and Crime Act 2017)

- 10.1 There are no duty to collaborate implications arising directly from this report.

11. Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

11.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2025-28 strategic priorities below:

- Further develop a culture of excellence, equality, learning and inclusion
- Provide a safe, effective and resilient response to local and national emergencies
- Focus our activities on reducing risk and vulnerability
- Enhance the health, safety and wellbeing of our people
- Prioritise a people first mindset through ethical and professional leadership and management
- Work with partners and communities to deliver our services
- Use resources in an innovative, sustainable and efficient manner to maximise value for money

12. Conclusions

12.1 That members note the work of the Environmental Working Group and the environmental initiatives that have been introduced.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025-28



Ownership:	Corporate Services
Date Issued:	22 October 2025
File ID:	CS-STR008
Version:	3.0
Status:	Draft
Protected:	Official

Revision and Signoff Sheet

Change Record

Date	Author	Version	Comments
23/03/2022	Beverley Croft-Nicholson	1.0	New strategy to replace previous policy
01/04/2023	Bradley Marsden	2.0	Update and review
11/07/2025	Bradley Marsden	3.0	Full review and accessible template update

Reviewers

Name	Version Approved	Position	Organisation	Date
Alison Davey	1.0	Head of Corporate Services	WYFRS	23/03/2022
Alison Davey	2.0	Head of Corporate Services	WYFRS	24/07/2023
EWG	2.0	Environmental Working Group	WYFRS	22/08/2023
Management Team	2.0	Management Team	WYFRS	19/09/2023
Alison Davey EWG	3.0	Head of Corporate Services Environmental Working Group	WYFRS	22/10/2025

Distribution

Name	Position	Organisation
	All Personnel	WYFRS

Equality Impact Assessment

Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? Yes

([EIA Template and Guidance](#))

Date EIA Completed: 03/09/2025

Date EIA Approved:

The EIA is available on request from the report author or from diversity.inclusion@westyorksfire.gov.uk

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Introduction

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) is committed to safeguarding the environment and recognise our responsibilities by managing the impact on the environment and monitoring and improving our systems and processes to prevent unduly affecting the environment. The impact of climate change and the increase in extreme weather conditions, such as heatwaves and flooding, continue to affect the number of environmental incidents we attend. We are committed to balancing the environmental, social, and economic impacts of our activities and will continue to promote environmentally friendly practices.

This Environmental Sustainability Strategy sets out how we will continue to improve the ways in which we use our resources to ensure the least harm to the environment. There are several factors that support the need to have this strategy which include the need to prevent climate change, legislation, and costs.

Our Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) is a three-year strategy aimed at identifying the key risks and challenges facing the communities of West Yorkshire, alongside our strategies to address them. Our CRMP has seven strategic priorities:

- Provide a safe, effective and resilient response to local and national emergencies.
- Focus our activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
- Enhance the health, safety, and well-being of our people.
- Prioritise a people first mindset through ethical and professional leadership and management.
- Work with partners and communities to deliver our services.
- Use resources in an innovative, sustainable, and efficient manner to maximise value for money.
- Further develop a culture of excellence, equality, learning, and inclusion.

This strategy supports our Ambition 'Making West Yorkshire Safer' and also links with our [Community Risk Management Plan](#) to specifically help us work towards our priority 'Use resources in an innovative, sustainable, and efficient manner to maximise value for money'.

How This Strategy Supports Our Values

WYFRS Core Values

- **Teamwork:** We recognise everyone's strengths and contributions, working effectively as one team.
- **Integrity:** We are trustworthy, act ethically, treating each other with dignity and respect.
- **Learning:** We learn all the time; we share knowledge and experiences, celebrating success.
- **Responsibility:** We are responsible, work positively and take ownership of the work we do.
- **Communication:** We share clear information, in ways everyone understands, having open discussions.

Core Code of Ethics for Fire and Rescue Services – our five ethical principles:



- **Putting our communities first:** We put the interests of the public, the community, and service users first.
- **Integrity:** We act with integrity including being open, honest, and consistent in everything that we do.
- **Dignity and respect:** We treat people with dignity and respect, making decisions objectively based on evidence, without discrimination or bias.
- **Leadership:** We are all positive role models, always demonstrating flexible and resilient leadership. We are all accountable for everything we do and challenge all behaviour that falls short of the highest standards.
- **Equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI):** We continually recognise and promote the value of EDI, both within the FRS and the wider communities in which we serve. We stand against all forms of discrimination, create equal opportunities, promote equality, foster good relations, and celebrate difference.

Background

Sustainability is defined as avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance. It can also be explained as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs and consists of three principles: economic, environmental, and social.

Climate change is an alteration in global or regional climate patterns and became apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards when global warming became evident. Climate change is a global issue. The increase in temperatures worldwide has been attributed mainly to raised levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels and emissions of other greenhouse gases.

World governments have recognised the need to act to halt this and nearly all countries in the world are now parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Convention's purpose is to stop human impact on the climate and requires that

the concentrations of greenhouse gases are stabilised, however since it was first agreed in 1992 global emissions have continued to rise. The 2005 Kyoto Protocol to the Framework Convention saw most developed countries agree to legally binding commitments to limit their emissions. In 2015 the United Nations developed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, containing [17 sustainable development goals](#) shown in Appendix B. The United Nations has identified that between 1998 and 2017, direct economic losses from disasters were estimated at almost \$3 trillion and climate-related and geophysical disasters claimed an estimated 1.3 million lives.

In the UK the [Climate Change Act 2008](#) sets a legal framework for the UK to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Due to the rising concern for global warming this was amended in 2019 to legislate a long-term, economy-wide target to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, including methane, by 2050. This act aims to enable the UK to become a low-carbon economy and gives ministers powers to introduce the measures necessary to achieve a range of greenhouse gas reduction targets. More recently the [Climate Change Strategy 2021- 2024](#) presented at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021 and subsequent COP27 (Egypt 2022) and COP28 (UAE 2023) sets out in more detail some of the strategic ways in which the UK will work towards Net Zero by 2050. Much of the work underway in the UK is underpinned by international work done through the United Nations. The Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement in particular, have provided the basis for work.

ISO 14001 is an internationally agreed and recognised standard for Environmental Management Systems (EMS). An EMS supports organisations in identifying, managing, monitoring and controlling environmental processes. Whilst not accredited, this Strategy aims to clearly document the scope of our environmental work. This Strategy, alongside our Environmental Legal Register and Action Plan, aims to form the basis of our EMS.

Objective

Everyone needs to recognise the environmental challenges that are facing the world such as climate change, resource depletion, availability of natural resources for energy consumption and loss of biodiversity.

Most of the work West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service does has some impact upon the environment. Of course, this includes all our operational work, such as attending fires, road traffic collisions and pollution incidents, and dealing with the after effects of these incidents and other events – such as extreme weather conditions. Additionally, we want to raise awareness of environmental issues in other areas of our service: i.e., Transport, Procurement, Estates, DDaT, and support functions all have a part to play in ensuring that we are as environmentally friendly as possible.

Often, we need to work with other organisations to ensure that the best interests of the environment are considered. For instance, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Environment Agency are guided by a signed agreement entitled “Local Working Arrangements”.

We will take account of government legislation relating to environmental issues adapting our procedures to minimise environmental impact. Furthermore, we will also take into consideration the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) and look to identify those to which we can contribute. The Environmental Working Group has specifically targeted the following goals:

- 3 Good Health and Well-being.
- 5 Gender Equality.
- 10 Reduced Inequalities.
- 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities.
- 13 Climate Action.



Our aim will be to develop and integrate these goals into our working practices to benefit our local communities and stakeholders.

We will promote this strategy throughout the organisation to encourage more effective, efficient, and environmentally sound activity and minimise wasteful and damaging practices. As outlined in our CRMP our services are funded by taxpayers, and we have a legal duty to ensure that the services we provide offer value for money and meet the needs of an ever-changing society. Implementing smarter working practices and operating in a more environmentally-friendly way often means operating more cost-effectively – saving energy means saving money.

The Environmental Sustainability Action Plan provides details of work we will undertake to improve the management of the Service's environmental impact and will be updated and reported to the Environmental Working Group.

Legislation

In addition to the Climate Change Act 2008 there is a wide range of other legislation that affects our work. Examples of these can be found in Appendix D.

Responsibility for protecting the environment in the UK rests with a number of different organisations at central and local government levels and under the Environment Act 1995 the Environment Agency was set up as the most significant of these agencies in England.

There are duties for fire and rescue services in five areas of environmental legislation: Water quality; Sewage systems; Land and soil; Waste; Nature conservation.

Fire and rescue services can be prosecuted and be liable for clean-up costs if their actions cause or worsen pollution, so it is important for us to be aware of the duties that environmental legislation places on our actions.

Service Delivery

Climate change has a significant effect on the services we provide and how we provide them. We have seen the impacts of prolonged periods of grass fires in recent summers as well as flooding events across many locations within our area. With the recent [Environment Act 2021](#) and subsequent updates, it is imperative that through our CRMP we consider how we can improve and adapt the services we provide to enable us to respond and protect our communities against the threats caused by climate change. To support this, we need to ensure we deliver our services with the least impact on the environment through energy and pollution control and environmental protection measures.

We are committed to working with partners such as the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) (utilising their [NFCC Environment Sustainability and Climate Change Toolkit](#)), Environment Agency, Canal & River Trust and the National Trust to prevent emergencies before they can damage the environment and to provide education to the public. We will continue to ensure our staff are well equipped, highly skilled and trained to respond effectively to resolve a wide range of incidents which could impact on the environment.

Through the CRMP we will continue to place resources in locations where they are most needed to react to climate driven emergencies and mitigate the impact to the environment. Local authorities have environmental responsibilities including the impact of smoke from a fire and from vehicle emissions. The statutory requirements for fire and rescue services are set out in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, to take any appropriate action if an incident harms, or is likely to harm, the environment. Our [Conservation Guide](#) sets out sustainability guidance for all staff whilst operationally our Environmental Protection Guidance and [Environmental Protection Handbook for the Fire and Rescue Service](#) form the basis for how we will look to minimise our environmental impact.

Our Journey to Continuously Improve our Environmental Sustainability Impact

We have been conscious of our impact on the environment for years and have put in place many initiatives to support our contribution to sustainability and environmental impact. In 2007 we set up the Environmental Working Group (EWG). The Terms of Reference and attendance tracking for this group, ensures we have leadership and management commitment, to help champion our Environmental Sustainability Strategy. This ensures EWG meetings are continually attended by managers across the Service who contribute to ongoing work, to ensure the Service is doing what it can to support the environment.

Collaboration and partnership working is at the heart of our environmental journey. Working with both national and regional sustainability groups we have made progress towards our goals by sharing best practices and seeking out collaborative opportunities. Our CRMP highlights the importance of working with partnerships and communities and shows we understand the benefits of collaboration and work closely with partners such as regional fire and rescue services, local authorities, emergency services, health teams, community groups, and voluntary organisations.

A national Sustainability Charter for all UK blue light organisations has been developed by the Emergency Services Environment and Sustainability Group which includes members from UK police, fire, ambulance and other emergency services. In 2022, this charter was signed by WYFRS Chief Fire Officer demonstrating our commitment to embed sustainability considerations throughout our organisation. A signed copy can be found in Appendix E.



Everything we do helps work towards achieving our goals within our CRMP. Our priorities in [‘Your Fire and Rescue Service’](#) include a specific priority ‘Use resources in an innovative, sustainable and efficient manner’. Our environmental action plan also clearly links with our CRMP demonstrating our commitment to continuously improving our environmental impact. We intend to do this across the strategic areas shown below:

Carbon

Carbon emissions refer to emissions of greenhouse gases which contribute to global warming. This is measured as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), and includes other gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol. Net zero means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere, by oceans and forests for instance. Sustainability is integral to the Service and its performance and can be used to paint an overall picture of how the Service is performing against its goals to become more environmentally friendly. Although operational carbon emissions can be more difficult to quantify and measure, all efforts will be made to mitigate environmental impacts. The Authority will seek to minimise energy use in every area of its work including transport, heating, and lighting. It will continue to improve energy efficiency in all its buildings and to promote renewable energy development.

What we have done:

- Set up an internal engagement group to share ideas on environmental improvements.
- Boiler replacements to change deteriorated, inefficient systems at several sites.

- Biomass Boiler installed at Fire Service Headquarters (FSHQ).
- Solar panels at Halifax, Todmorden, Fairweather Green Fire Stations and FSHQ BA building.
- Embedded in our ways of working, through operations response, incident commanders are trained to reduce environmental impact and damage where appropriate, including steps put in place to mitigate hazardous materials through Hazardous Materials Environmental Protection Officers (HMEPOs) and plume reports.

Targets:

- Generate energy through solar power for direct energy and storage.
- To achieve net zero carbon by 2050.
- Reduce the carbon and energy used in fire stations and other West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service buildings.
- Design E-Learning on climate change and carbon literacy to help staff understand the sustainability impacts of their jobs and how they can they minimise their impact.

What we will do:

- Do everything we can where appropriate to reduce fires through our [Prevention Strategy and Delivery Plan](#) and aid in reducing greenhouse gas impact.
- Manage carbon emissions by reducing scope 1 (direct) and scope 2 (in-direct) emissions as quickly and as much as possible.
- Use Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure progress and identify areas of success and pinpoint areas where additional support is needed.
- Introduce carbon literacy training to create greater understanding of the need to reduce consumption, carbon emissions and a culture/behavioural change of collective responsibility.
- Protect the environment from harm through ensuring risk reduction activities to reduce the risk from climate related incidents.

Estates

A large proportion of the opportunities for the Service to reduce its carbon footprint comes from how we operate and maintain our estate. We will utilise dedicated expertise to evaluate our estate which will include identifying and improving our energy usage and reduce our energy loss. Condition surveys are being undertaken which will identify building fabric upgrades and asset upgrades to enable further work to be undertaken to reduce our environmental impact. We will encourage initiatives such as increased solar energy on roof spaces and increased use of recyclables. Outlined in our [Estates Strategy](#) we will promote environmentally friendly ways of working, reduce waste and raise awareness among staff to both fight climate change and respond more effectively to incidents driven by extreme weather events. It is Estates duty to provide fit for purpose buildings, optimise the size of the estate, reduce carbon emissions, and improve energy efficiency.

What we have done:

- Developed a set of Fire Station Design Principles aimed to minimise environmental impact and incorporate a zoning layout to reduce exposure to contaminants.
- Electrical rewiring scheme at Todmorden Fire Station.
- New welfare/administration building roof upgrade incorporating improved thermal insulation for Rawdon Fire Station.
- Environmental improvements and LED lighting schemes at Odsal, Todmorden, and Cookridge.
- Utilising modern solutions to new builds ensuring they are more environmentally efficient.
- Extensive environmental consultation and progress in plans for the new Fire Service Headquarters.
- Improved drainage at Mytholmroyd Fire Station to stop water exiting the site and reduce flooding.
- Transitioned Bingley Fire Station from gas to all electric.
- Keighley and Spen Valley Fire Station redevelopments.
- New modern and environmentally efficient Headquarters with over 250 solar panels, heat pumps, hybrid ventilation and electric vehicle charging.

Target:

- Aim to source 10% of electric needs from on-site renewables by 2026.
- Ensure all refurbishments include and consider environmental technologies.

What we will do:

- Improve the energy efficiency of all buildings through more efficient heating/cooling and lighting systems.
- Monitor and record energy figures following the implementation of energy efficiency projects and set out a roadmap for decarbonisation across our estate.
- Provide environmental improvements and LED lighting schemes across the estate in line with LED lighting regulations.

Fleet

The Service operates a fleet of around 360 vehicles of varying sizes to cover all activities undertaken. Most of our vehicles are currently diesel fuelled engines which are maintained to high standards and are in service for many years. The use of vehicle tracking reduces the fleet size and monitoring of vehicle idling time reduces unnecessary emissions. In addition, we only deploy HGV vehicles when required which reduces mileage and fuel usage. We will continue to monitor new technology to improve the environmental impact of our fleet.

What we have done:

- Number of charging points expanded on Headquarters site to 17 with open access to WYFRS employees.
- Installed electric vehicle charging points at FSHQ, Leeds and Killingbeck Fire Stations and tracking technology in vehicles to monitor driving efficiency.
- Renewed all front-line appliances to latest euro emissions standard.
- Head of Transport and Logistics is the NFCC lead for fleet and equipment.

Target:

- Extend the use of electric vehicles (EV) through detailed research into EV infrastructure.
- Increase low emission and electric vehicles to 35% of our support fleet by 2028 in line with existing vehicle replacement dates.

What we will do:

- Manage fuel efficiency through intelligent vehicle specification and fleet management.
- Monitor driver behaviour and total emissions through vehicle telematics, including wasted fuel for vehicle idling and implement driver improvement courses where necessary.
- Conduct biannual fleet reviews to ensure efficient fleet usage.
- Continue to modernise fleet vehicles up to the highest emissions standard (euro 6 (e)).
- Identify future requirements for electric powered vehicles and alternative fuel types.
- Research and identify current and future requirements for hydrogen vehicle development.

Travel

We will review current requirements for business travel and seek to reduce the level of travel in addition to exploring low carbon methods of transport. Utilisation of remote working has reduced the need for travel to work, and meetings and local journeys are undertaken in electric vehicles. WYFRS work closely in partnership with the West Yorkshire Travel Plan Network and takes part in the annual travel to work survey. Car sharing will be encouraged throughout the Service. The Authority will seek to reduce its dependence on road transport including journeys to work, business mileage and fleet operation. It will also seek to introduce the use of renewable and cleaner fuels.

What we have done:

- Implemented modern ways of working and policies to enable staff to reduce the carbon impacts from business travel.
- Utilised Microsoft Teams for meetings across all locations.
- Installed telematics across our support fleet to help avoid unnecessary journeys, reduce fuel use and emissions.
- Participated in the Annual Travel to Work Survey since 2007. The survey results provide useful information on, travel to work activity, the impact on the environment, as well as providing year on year comparison figures.

- Implemented programmes to support staff to adopt more sustainable modes of transport and reduce their impact on local air quality.

Target:

- Reduce unnecessary travel and subsequent carbon emissions.
- Monitor and record Service business miles and reduce where appropriate.

What we will do:

- Promote meetings to be held via Teams to decrease use of cars and travel reducing mileage.
- Continue to promote hybrid working and car share where appropriate.

Technology

New technology has a significant role in developing and streamlining working practices which will have a positive effect in reducing our carbon footprint. Flexible working arrangements will support this. As outlined in our [Digital and Data Strategy](#) technology provides more efficient and environmentally friendly ways of working, maximising our investment in technology to provide value for money and better supporting our staff, partners, and communities.

What we have done:

- Implemented hybrid and flexible working hours.
- Implemented the new Microsoft SharePoint system to reduce the need for printing and filing.
- Adopted ICT system improvements to reduce paper usage and wastepaper.
- New print solution has been live since April 2023 across stations reducing the need to print, saving 3.1 trees worth of paper during its three-month trial.
- Through our procurement process we have made significant progress with suppliers towards sustainable devices with timeout/inactivity functions to minimise power consumption.
- We continue to recycle older laptops and IT equipment for use in schools and those no longer operational are stripped for parts and recycled.

Target:

- Reduce the need for printing and other manual/labour intensive exercises in line with the Digital and Data Strategy 2025-2028 to improve process automation.
- Review and improve the power efficiency of our data centres through innovative technology and energy use monitoring.
- Implement and analyse carbon reporting tools on printers across our various sites.

What we will do:

- Continue to provide technology which supports flexible working and digitise processes to reduce the need for manual processes and paper wastage.
- Encourage the reuse and repurpose of materials and equipment such as gifting laptops and used equipment to local charitable establishments and councils.
- Roll out new laptops across the Service using reduced packaging and better, more efficient, battery life devices.

Procurement

Sustainable procurement involves procuring supplies, services and works with appropriate consideration (at the planning stage) to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 and inherent environmental, economic, and social factors. The [Procurement Strategy](#) aims to protect the natural environment and accordingly our contract specifications and operating procedures aim to ensure appropriate safeguards and avoid any harmful consequences. Where possible, we will source from ethical, as well as sustainable providers, and use our buying power to influence improvements across markets that we use. By doing so the hope is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by encouraging re-cycling of reusable materials and minimise waste generally by encouraging staff, stakeholders, and suppliers to consider whether a product or service is required before they buy. Linking with our CRMP and our commitment to delivering the best affordable service, environmental sustainability cost saving initiatives, positively impact and support the Service in optimising resources, improving efficiency and maintaining high standards of service.

What we have done:

- Social value and sustainability are now a standard question within the quality element of all tender processes.
- The procurement strategy includes specific reference to sustainability and social value.
- Procurement process includes request for tenders to include company's approach to sustainability.
- New waste disposal contracts procured to ensure ethical and compliant disposal of waste across the Service.
- Amended our Procurement Approval Document to include: A brief scope of the project, any parameters in and outside of scope, expected outcomes/outputs to be achieved, including social value outcomes, savings, greater efficiency, living wage, and environmental considerations.

Target:

- By 2026, our supply chain will have a demonstrable commitment to our carbon neutrality target.

- Provide improved sustainable goods and services to WYFRS and also adopt practices that minimise suppliers environmental impact and deliver community benefits in relation to their own operations and throughout their supply chain.
- Comply with Government requirements such as the assessment of Suppliers' Net Zero Carbon Reduction Plans.

What we will do:

- Continually improve the social value obtained from the public money we spend.
- Measure and understand the environmental/sustainability impact of our supply chain.
- Ensure compliant procurement processes which include enhanced considerations regarding sustainability.
- Consider and utilise collaborative framework agreements where suitable for WYFRS.

Waste and Recycling

We will reduce the volume of waste which is sent to landfill in conjunction with waste contractors and user dashboards to monitor waste and will continue to increase the volume of waste recycled, alongside considering the whole life impact of items we purchase and use. The Authority will minimise production of waste by avoiding wherever legitimately possible purchasing products with excessive waste, and by ensuring reuse, repair, and recycling. The Authority's [Waste Management Policy](#) and [Waste Management Procedure](#) details the corporate arrangements and responsibilities for the management of waste.

What we have done:

- Implemented mixed recycling bins at all locations separated and recycled by contractor.
- Continuous recycling performance figures monitored and published.
- Recycling of paper and cardboard and other materials at all locations in line with local council waste collection schemes.
- Recycling textiles and books to raise funds for The Fire Fighters Charity.
- Calderdale District collaborate with Calderdale Council Bike Library scheme lending out refurbished bicycles to people in the Calderdale District.
- Introduction of new foam compliant to British Standards, ensuring it is environmentally friendly and does not contain contaminants.

Target:

- To provide more effective waste disposal and recycling both domestically and operationally.
- Reduce total tonnage of general waste by 10%, increase recycling rates to 50%, reduce paper use by 10%.
- Conform with all new simpler recycling legislation by 2026.

What we will do:

- Encourage the reuse and repurpose of materials and equipment whenever it is safe and reasonably practicable to do so.
- Promote recycling initiatives with Service staff through training, awareness, and competition.
- Continue to monitor and improve recycling performance figures.
- Continue to monitor and maintain the Environmental Legal Register as part of our Environmental Management System.

Utilities

We monitor and manage the use of all utilities; gas, water, and electricity across all our locations and encourage reduction in use to protect the environment in addition to lowering of costs.

What we have done:

- Usage of gas, water and electricity continues to be monitored across all sites on a weekly basis.
- Installed LED and/or PIR activated lighting systems at several locations.
- Electrical rewiring at several locations to improve efficiencies.

Target:

- To monitor and reduce utilities usage.
- Reduce overspend on utilities across the service.

What we will do:

- Monitor use of gas, water, and electricity across all locations.
- Stations and District Managers to continue to monitor, review, manage and share best practices surrounding usage.
- Promote ways to improve awareness of every individual's responsibility to reduce utilities usage through communication and competition.

Communication

We will provide opportunities for our staff to take part in promoting environmental initiatives via the Environmental Working Group, Staff Suggestion Scheme, and normal day to day management within teams. We will continue to develop and utilise the Intranet to promote the environmental and sustainability work carried out throughout the Service and provide regular updates on the success of the strategy via Service communication channels.

What we have done:

- Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Conservation Guide updated 2025.
- Recycling and utilities articles published regularly.

Target:

- To provide information to staff regarding environmental sustainability initiatives.
- To encourage staff to promote initiatives across the Service.
- Provide Carbon Literacy training to all staff by 2027 to improve understanding of the climate emergency and their role in tackling it.

What we will do:

- Provide regular staff updates on environmental sustainability including the use of staff newsletters.
- Research the possibility of implementing sustainability e-learning training to raise awareness and empower staff to make eco-conscious choices.
- Effectively communicate our Environmental Sustainability Strategy and enable staff to contribute to sustainability ambitions within their role.

Wellbeing

The wellbeing of our staff is of the utmost importance. Employee wellbeing is a term that describes how a person's job and/or the organisation they work for, affects their overall health and happiness. When an organisation prioritises wellbeing, their teams are likely happier and experience less stress. Embedding sustainability and wellbeing initiatives at all levels of the organisation can help ensure sustainability plays a central role in our organisational culture. Furthermore, biodiversity initiatives support human and societal needs, including food and nutrition security, energy, development of medicines and pharmaceuticals and freshwater, which together underpin good health. It also supports economic opportunities, and leisure activities that contribute to overall wellbeing.

What we have done:

- Introduction of Cycle to Work Scheme, which allows the purchase of bikes at a reduced price (through tax savings) via a salary sacrifice scheme to encourage staff to keep active and healthy.
- Social Values reporting.
- Green space and wildflower garden designed around wellbeing incorporated into the new headquarters as well as other environmentally friendly initiatives such as onsite beekeeping.
- Environmental investment into the new FSHQ and concept design including improved air quality, natural lighting and ergonomic design aimed to have a positive impact on staff well-being.
- Protected characteristic working groups.

Target:

- Reduce staff turnover and number of sick days across the Service.
- Enhance staff engagement by showcasing the Service commitment to sustainability, enabling staff to feel a sense of purpose and contribution, which will lead to greater job satisfaction and overall well-being.
- All new station builds and redesigns to be made to the same specifications and where possible consider concepts such as natural lighting and ergonomic design to have a positive impact on staff wellbeing.

What we will do:

- Protect and promote the health, safety, and wellbeing of our staff.
- Develop a diverse and inclusive workforce, serving diverse communities.
- Develop an Employee Value Proposition statement to help embed our values surrounding the environment and sustainability with our employees.
- Where possible, plant native, insect encouraging species across our estate to create biodiverse microsystems that encourage flora and fauna to thrive.
- Promote cycle to work scheme to reduce annual mileage and subsequent emission.

Biodiversity

Fire and Rescue Services in England are public bodies, so they must comply with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, which requires them to consider biodiversity in their operations and planning. The Wildfire Framework for England outlines how fire services help protect people, property, and natural habitats from wildfires. It promotes coordination between government departments and stakeholders to safeguard biodiversity during fire incidents. Raising awareness about wildfire risks and promoting responsible behaviour helps protect biodiversity.

What we have done:

- Implemented wildlife gardens at Silsden and Ilkley Fire Stations.
- Entered on to The British Hedgehog Preservation Societies [Hedgehog Heroes Roll of Honour](#).

Target:

- To promote and protect all aspects of the environment including wildlife and their habitats across our estate.

What we will do:

- Promote and investigate biodiversity initiatives to support wildlife within our estate.
- Strengthen links with other local Authorities to collaborate on environmental and climate related issues.

- Create a Beekeeping Sports and Social Club section and construct WYFRS beehives at FSHQ.

Water

Further developing our understanding of our overall consumption of water, including from firefighter training activity, and embedding measures to reduce water wastage and consumption will assist the Service in local climate change related risks and effectively support our communities at various phases during extreme weather events. The Authority will minimise water consumption in all its buildings and on its land. It will seek to implement measures to reduce pollution entering wastewater and to recycle water wherever possible. Whilst duty is placed on the organisation to mitigate damage from water application, it also recognises that consumption is required at operational incidents. It is essential that this is closely monitored and managed following operational incidents and efforts made to reduce the impact of plastic waste, usage, and any potential environmental damage.

What we have done:

- Regularly monitor and evaluate levels of water usage across all our sites.
- Improved drainage at Mytholmroyd Fire station.

Target:

- Research to quantify water used fighting fires.
- A further reduction in water consumption figures by 10% annually through minimising water usage where possible.
- Aim for a 5% reduction in water use on stations by 2026.

What we will do:

- Further develop understanding of our overall consumption of water, including from firefighter training activity, and embedding measures to reduce water wastage and consumption.
- Use technology to reduce water consumption within our estate.

Action Plan

Our Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, in Appendix A, provides details of work we aim to undertake to improve the management of the Service's environmental impact. The plan will be dynamic, being updated and reported to the Environmental Working Group.

Each action has been allocated a Responsible Officer who will provide an update of progress against each action at the Environmental Working Group meetings.

Monitoring & Review

Environmental Working Group

The Environmental Working Group will meet regularly to:

1. Provide advice and guidance to the Fire Authority in all matters concerning environmental issues in line with our 10 environmental commitments as detailed in Appendix C.
2. Monitor and record any environmental issues relating to any operational incident of note.
3. Monitor and record usage information for the main utilities covering Electricity, Gas and Water and seek ways to reduce utilities usage across the service.
4. Monitor and update the environmental licence register to ensure it continues to be fit for purpose and legal.
5. Monitor, record and encourage recycling initiatives across the service.
6. Offer staff a forum to raise concerns regarding environmental issues.
7. Review the membership of the group on an annual basis.

Fire Authority

All reports submitted to each Fire Authority and sub-committee meetings include the need to consider the environmental implications of the work being reported.

The Environmental Working Group activities are reported to the Finance and Resources Committee on an annual basis.

Appendix A - Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025-28 - Action Plan

Action	Objective	UNSDGs	CRMP Alignment	Responsible Person
Carbon				
Use Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and expand on and develop use of carbon calculator to measure progress, and identify areas of success and pinpoint areas where additional support is needed	To more accurately measure carbon emissions and monitor performance towards our goals	7 11 12 13	6	Head of Corporate Services
Introduce carbon literacy training to create greater understanding of the need to reduce consumption, carbon emissions and a culture/behavioural change of collective responsibility	To improve knowledge service wide	3 4 12 13	6 7	Head of Corporate Services
Manage carbon emissions by reducing scope 1 and scope 2 emissions as quickly and as much as possible	Reduce emissions and work towards net zero carbon by 2050	7 11 12 13	5 6	Head of Estates
Decarbonisation Surveys and Grant funding	Implement some of the results of the decarbonisation surveys, explore funding streams linked to projects and planned programme, funding stream announcements expected summer / autumn 2025	11 13	6	Head of Estates
Do everything we can where appropriate to reduce fires through our Prevention Strategy & Delivery Plan and aid in reducing greenhouse gas impact	Reduce carbon emissions and damage to the environment where possible at operational incidents	3 4 11	1 2 5 6	Operations Response AM

Protect the environment from harm through ensuring risk reduction activities to reduce the risk from climate related incidents	To reduce impact on the local environment	11 12 13	1 2 6	Operations Response AM
Estates				
Improve the energy efficiency of all buildings through more efficient heating/cooling and environmental improvements and LED lighting schemes across the estate in line with LED lighting regulations	Upgrade inefficient boilers replacing with A rated gas boilers or air source heat pumps if feasible. Upgrade the boiler controls to ensure boilers are working at optimal capacity. Upgrade existing lighting for energy efficient LED lighting linked to PIR sensors across the estate	7 9 11 12 13	6	Head of Estates
Monitor and record energy figures following the implementation of energy efficiency projects and set out a roadmap for decarbonisation across the estate	To improve methods of recording, analysing and improving energy usage and carbon emission	7 11 12	6	Head of Estates
Refurbishments and redevelopments	Ensure all refurbishments include and consider environmental technologies and building fabric improvements to lower energy usage	9 11	6	Head of Estates
Fleet				
Monitor fleet vehicle use with telematics data to reduce emissions	Produce reports on driver behaviour and vehicle idling	11 12	6 7	Head of Transport and Logistics
Investigate alternative fuel types	Identify future requirements for electric powered vehicles and alternative fuel types	11 12 13	6	Head of Transport and Logistics
Continue to modernise fleet vehicles up to the highest emissions standard (euro 6 (e))	Renew all front-line appliances by 2026 to latest euro emissions standard	11 12 13	6 7	Head of Transport and Logistics

Manage fuel efficiency through intelligent vehicle specification and fleet management	Increase low emission and electric vehicles to 35% of our support fleet by 2028 in line with existing vehicle replacement dates to reduce fuel usage and emissions	11 12 13	6	Head of Transport and Logistics
Expand the use of electric vehicles and charging	Research into the development of EV charging infrastructure and roll out EV charging in line with the fleet strategy across the estate	7 9 11 17	5 6 7	Head of Estates
Travel				
Continue to promote hybrid working and car share where appropriate	Reduce business miles across the Service	3 10 13	3 6	Head of Corporate Services
Technology				
Digitise or completely remove paper archives to aid in the conversion to digital means of filing	Reduce paper usage across the Service	9 12	6	Head of Corporate Services
Review and improve the power efficiency of our data centres through innovative technology and energy use monitoring	To reduce energy usage and consumption through reduction of power usage	9 11 12 13	6	Head of Digital, Data and Technology
Implement and analyse carbon reporting tools on printers across our various sites	To monitor and improve CO2 usage	11 12 13	6	Head of Digital, Data and Technology
Research and implement scheme to donate used equipment to local charitable establishments	To support local communities and encourage the reuse and recycling of old equipment	11 12 16 17	5 6	Head of Digital, Data and Technology
Procurement				
Ensure compliant procurement processes which include enhanced considerations regarding sustainability	An increased focus on ensuring we have in place an ethical and environmentally aware and proactive supply chain. Continue to effectively promote, develop and ensure compliance with policy, legislative and regulatory requirements in regard to	8 10 11	6	Head of Procurement

	procurement and supply chain management			
Place increased emphasis on our supply chain to improve sustainability objectives	Provide improved sustainable goods and services to WYFRS and also adopt practices that minimise suppliers environmental impact and deliver community benefits in relation to their own operations and throughout their supply chain. Develop, promote and communicate effective procurement strategies including ethical, sustainable, environmental and social value across the organisation	9 11 13	6	Head of Procurement
Whole life costing policy compliance	To ensure value for money in goods purchased but also maintenance, reuse and disposal etc	8 12	6	Head of Procurement
Measure and understand the environmental/sustainability impacts of our supply chain	To ensure that sustainability enhancements and targets both internally and with the supply chain support continuous improvement	4 9 11 13	6	Head of Procurement
Consider and utilise collaborative framework agreements where suitable for WYFRS	To ensure existing arrangements are used where value for money and efficiencies are achieved	8 11 17	5	Head of Procurement
Waste and Recycling				
Continue to monitor recycling performance figures and promote recycling initiatives through training and awareness	To provide more effective waste disposal and recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill in line with new	12 13 14 15	6 7	Head of Estates & Head of Corporate Services

	simpler recycling legislation			
Investigate improvements to waste data recording to align with carbon calculating	To improve accuracy of waste and carbon emission figures	7 11 12 13	5 6	Head of Corporate Services
Promote initiatives to minimise the use of single use plastic	To reduce waste and impact on the environment	6 12 14 15	3 6	Head of Corporate Services
Encourage the reuse and repurpose of materials and equipment whenever it is safe and reasonably practicable to do so	To reduce waste and encourage social value returns	11 12	6	Head of Transport and Logistics & Head of Digital, Data and Technology

Utilities

Monitor use of gas, water and electricity across all locations and promote ways to improve awareness of individuals responsibility through communications and competition	To monitor and report to aid reductions in usage	4 11 12 13	6 7	Head of Corporate Services
Stations and District Managers to continue to monitor, review, manage and share best practices surrounding usage	To monitor and reduce usage	4 11 12 13	6 7	Operations Response AM

Communication

Provide regular staff updates on environmental sustainability	To encourage staff to promote initiatives across the Service	4 11	5 7	Head of Corporate Services
Effectively communicate the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and enable staff to contribute to sustainability ambitions within their role	To provide information to staff regarding environmental sustainability initiatives	4 11 16	3 5 7	Head of Corporate Services

Wellbeing

Protect and promote the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff	To create a healthy working environment for all staff	1 2 3 6	3	Head of Occupational Health, Safety & Wellbeing
Promote our cycle to work scheme to reduce annual mileage and subsequent emissions	To promote the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and reduce our impact on the environment	3 11 13	3	Head of Occupational Health, Safety & Wellbeing
Develop a diverse and inclusive workforce, serving diverse communities	To improve diversity and inclusion service wide	5 8 10 16	3 4 7	Head of People and Culture
Develop an Employee Value Proposition statement to help embed our values surrounding the environment and sustainability with our employees	To ensure staff are well trained and knowledgeable to aid in wellbeing and reduce their day to day environmental impact	4 11	3 4 7	Head of People and Culture
Biodiversity				
Promote and investigate biodiversity initiatives to support wildlife within our estate	To promote and protect all aspects of the environment including wildlife and their habitats across the estate	14 15	3 6	Head of Corporate Services
Water				
Further develop understanding of our overall consumption of water, including from firefighter training activity, and embedding measures to reduce water wastage and consumption	To ensure water consumption is used in a responsible way	6 12 14	6	Operations Response AM
Further develop and use technology to reduce water consumption within our estate	To reduce water consumption across the Service	6 13 14	6 7	Head of Estates

Appendix B - The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

1. No poverty.
2. Zero hunger.
3. Good health and wellbeing.
4. Quality education.
5. Gender equality.
6. Clean water and sanitation.
7. Affordable and clean energy.
8. Decent work and economic growth.
9. Industry, innovation, and infrastructure.
10. Reduced inequalities.
11. Sustainable cities and communities.
12. Responsible consumption and production.
13. Climate action.
14. Life below water.
15. Life on land.
16. Peace, justice, and strong institutions.
17. Partnerships for the goals.



Appendix C - Our Environmental Commitments

Commitment 1

We aim to comply with, and observe the spirit of, all environmental legislation, regulation, and other requirements.

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service is governed by legislation which means we must operate in a way which is sympathetic to the environment. This legislation includes:

- [The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.](#)
- [The Civil Contingencies Act 2004.](#)
- [The Water Resources Act 1991.](#)
- [The Groundwater Regulations 2009.](#)
- [The Environment Act 2021.](#)

In all our activity, we intend not only to fulfil our legal obligations, but also to promote clearly and actively, a positive attitude to the environment.

There are already examples of where our Operational Guidance Procedures make clear reference to the impact we have upon the environment.

Commitment 2

We want to ensure that everyone at West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service considers the impact their work has upon the environment.

We have made this document available throughout our organisation. Obviously, we aim – as a minimum - to fulfil our legal obligations. Beyond that, we also actively encourage all Service personnel to think in terms of how energy can be saved in a way that is not harmful to the business.

Commitment 3

We will review what we do, both operationally and non-operationally, to identify areas where we can operate in a more efficient, effective, and environmentally friendly way.

This commitment works on two levels. Firstly, whenever a strategy or procedure is reviewed, we will ensure that all environmental considerations are included within it. Secondly, we will ensure that operational debriefs specifically consider whether individual operations were carried out with the highest regard for the environment. The findings of each debrief will be used to inform future operational guidance and future versions of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

Commitment 4

We will develop an accompanying guide on Energy Conservation, to act as a guide for good practice throughout the organisation.

To support this strategy, we have developed a guide which will include a list of simple and practical steps to provide savings on water, heating, and lighting. It is intended that this guide will be implemented by all personnel at their workplace to support effective use of resources.

Commitment 5

We will continue to look outside of our own organisation for ideas.

We will continue to research environmentally beneficial solutions which are cost-effective and practicable. We will work with partner organisations to find examples of good, effective practice which we can implement throughout the Service.

Commitment 6

We will encourage our business partners - including contractors and suppliers - to operate in a way which is consistent with our Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

We will explore ways in which we can ensure that our business partners are aware of our Environmental Sustainability Strategy and that our interaction with them supports the attitudes and beliefs which are at the heart of our strategy.

Commitment 7

We will formally evaluate this strategy initially after 12 months, and then every three years, or whenever we think there might be any significant improvements to make to the strategy.

We will review this document after 12 months to ensure it is fit for purpose. We will use it to help us plan for the future and incorporate new initiatives, to help us to continually improve. The strategy will include both long and short-term actions and related targets for the coming years.

Commitment 8

We will review the successes and areas for improvement of the strategy annually.

Each year, we will review how well we have done and identify key achievements and areas where we feel we can improve. We will make our findings available upon request and communicate them throughout the organisation.

Commitment 9

We will continue with a cross-directorate Working Group to consider environmental issues.

The working group will be made up of managers from all directorates. Each manager will be responsible for reporting on the environmental performance of their directorate. The group will meet regularly and will be used as a learning resource, with the opportunity to share examples of good practice. It will report on major environmental issues and our effective environmentally friendly activities and performance to the Finance and Resources Committee.

The group will be chaired by the Head of Corporate Services, and nominations for contributors will be sought from each department.

Commitment 10

We will set ourselves targets for reducing the amount of energy we use.

Each year we will set ourselves quantifiable reductions in energy use, and we will monitor progress against these targets.

Appendix D - Legislation

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004

This lists the principal functions of fire and rescue services as fire safety; firefighting; rescuing people in road traffic collisions; and responding to emergencies. It also includes the statutory requirement for fire and rescue services to take any appropriate action if an incident harms, or is likely to harm, the environment, but it does not contain a specific duty or requirement to protect the environment. There are, however, duties for fire and rescue services in five areas of environmental legislation: Water quality; Sewage systems; Land and soil; Waste; Nature conservation.

The Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) (England) Order 2007

The Order places a duty on fire and rescue services (in England) to have the capability to remove chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive contaminants from people at an emergency. There is also a duty to contain water used for decontamination for a reasonable time. Fire and rescue services must take steps to prevent or limit environmental damage when decontaminating people.

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004

The Act sets out the duties of certain organisations and as Category 1 responders, fire and rescue services are part of the multi-agency response to civil emergencies. Our role under the act is to save life, and to protect property and the environment. To be an 'environmental emergency' an incident must be one of the following:

- Contamination of land, water, or air with a harmful biological, chemical, or radioactive substance.
- Flooding.
- Disruption or destruction to plant life or animal life.

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulation 2010

Under these regulations it is an offence to cause or knowingly permit the release of pollution to ground or surface waters. This is unless the release is allowed by an environmental permit or exemption. To cause, must involve an active operation or the failure to act. To knowingly permit involves the failure to prevent pollution where there is knowledge of it occurring. The regulations do allow a defence where fire and rescue service actions cause pollution, but strict criteria must be met:

- A discharge is made in an emergency to avoid danger to human health.
- All reasonably practicable steps were taken to minimise pollution.
- The relevant environment agency is informed of the incident as soon as possible.

The Environmental Damage (Prevention & Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015

These regulations state that fire and rescue services must take steps to prevent or reduce environmental damage. They must notify the appropriate regulator of:

- Damage to a site of special scientific interest.
- Damage to species and habitats outside SSSIs that are protected by EU legislation.
- Serious long-term damage to ground or surface water (that results in a decline in water status under the Water Framework Directive).
- Contamination of land by substances or organisms that cause significant risk to human health.

In normal circumstances there is no defence against a breach of the regulations. However, there are three exemptions to the regulations, these being damage caused by:

- Acts of terrorism.
- Exceptional natural phenomena if the operator took all reasonable precautions to prevent them.
- Activities which have the sole purpose of protecting against natural disasters, and activities which have the main purpose of serving national defence or international security.

The regulator may require fire and rescue services to carry out preventive and remediation measures. It may also be necessary to pay costs for any environmental damage caused. For protected sites and species, a fire and rescue service may be liable if damage is deliberate or is caused by negligence.

The Water Industry Act 1999

This Act states it is an offence to release polluting material into a sewer without having consent from the sewerage company, therefore they must be informed when accidental releases occur.

Firewater run-off (including foam) or a spillage must be contained on site and where this is not possible, early contact should be made with the Environment Agency to identify the best option for minimising the environmental impact. If firewater has already entered the foul sewage network, the sewage operator must be informed so they can assess the risk to the treatment process.

If the Environment Agency and FRS believe that the foul sewerage system is the best disposal option, they must contact the sewerage undertaker as soon as possible to seek approval to do so, or to warn of contaminants in the sewerage system.

The Water Resources Act 1991

This Act regulates water resources, water quality and pollution, and flood defence.

Part 2 of the Act provides the general structure for the management of water resources.

Part 3 explains the standards expected for controlled waters; and what is considered to be water pollution.

Part 4 provides information on mitigation through flood defence.

The Groundwater Regulations 1998

These regulations relate to the prevention of risks to groundwater from certain substances, labelled as List 1 and List 2.

The Environment Agency is empowered to prosecute any unauthorised disposals.

The Environment Act 2021

This Act states the legal requirements for:

- Targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment.
- Statements and reports about environmental protection.
- The Office for Environmental Protection.
- Waste and resource efficiency.
- Air quality.
- The recall of products that fail to meet environmental standards.
- Water.
- Nature and biodiversity.
- Conservation covenants.
- The regulation of chemicals.
- Any connected purposes.

The Climate Change Act 2008

Sets out legally binding climate targets for the UK with key features including:

- Net Zero Target: Originally aimed for an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (compared to 1990 levels) but was updated in 2019 to a 100% net zero target.
- Carbon Budgets: Introduced five-year carbon budgets to cap emissions and guide progress toward long-term goals.
- Independent Oversight: Established the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) to advise the government and monitor progress.
- Adaptation Planning: Requires the government to assess climate risks and publish a National Adaptation Programme every five years.
- Policy Powers: Enables the creation of trading schemes, waste reduction incentives, and other measures to cut emissions.

Simpler Recycling Guidelines

Sets out ways in which to standardize waste collection across England, making it easier for households and businesses to recycle correctly

Appendix E – Emergency Services Environment and Sustainability Group Charter



EESG Sustainability Charter

The Emergency Services Environment and Sustainability Group (EESG) includes members from UK Police Forces, Fire & Rescue Services, Ambulance Services and other Emergency Services who meet to share best practice and discuss emerging technologies, government policy and legislative requirements.

This Sustainability Charter has been developed for members to pledge their support to work towards a set of common goals and aspirations, embed sustainability within their own organisations, and achieve national and international sustainability objectives. It will also enable members to identify positive effects on sustainability within their communities and manage any negative effects and risks.

All members shall consider the Sustainability Charter aspirations in the development and delivery of their own policies and strategies. It is acknowledged that members are at different stages of their sustainability journey and will have different priorities depending on their core business activities and regional issues.

This Charter has adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to provide a consistent framework with consideration to all areas of sustainability. Key goals are linked under the People, Planet and Public Purse headings to enable all members to identify relevant areas of sustainability and incorporate these back into their own organisations.

For EESG sustainability means:

Reducing the negative impacts associated with our operations, whilst working towards positive and long-lasting outcomes for our planet, the people within our organisations, the communities we serve and the public purse.

Our organisation recognises that all emergency services have the potential to affect the local and global environment, society and the wider economy. We also recognise that climate change and global trends will continue to have an impact on the demands placed upon our emergency services. We need to be proactive in recognising these impacts to continuously provide an efficient and effective service, and therefore aspire to:

People

- ▶ Take action in our local areas to contribute to the transition to more sustainable cities and communities.
- ▶ Proactively manage our resources as communities change and develop to continue to be receptive to their needs.
- ▶ Provide our staff with the tools and resources required for them to make informed sustainable decisions both in the workplace and at home.
- ▶ Provide a safe and healthy working environment and improve wellbeing for all staff.
- ▶ Continue to improve equality, diversity and inclusion in our organisations and in the communities we serve.
- ▶ Reduce the harmful emissions associated with our operations, to improve local air quality, reduce pollution and enhance the wellbeing of our communities.





EMERGENCY SERVICES ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Planet

- ▶ Work towards net zero carbon emissions through improving the energy efficiency of our estate and sustainable business and personal travel.
- ▶ Improve resource efficiency and adopt circular economy approaches to reduce waste and save money.
- ▶ Restore and enhance local biodiversity through considered management of our estates.
- ▶ Adapt to inevitable climate change through proactively managing our ability to respond to extreme weather events and changes to service demand.
- ▶ Take action to avoid or mitigate pollution of water courses.
- ▶ Minimise our reliance on fossil fuels by actively seeking to generate renewable energy at our sites, and through the adoption of greener technologies and fuels for our fleet.



Public Purse

- ▶ Use our spending power to promote and adopt sustainable procurement practices
- ▶ Proactively manage the opportunities brought by new technologies to maximise financial budgets.
- ▶ Proactively prosecute wildlife crime.
- ▶ Support our staff and local supply chains to develop and maintain the skills needed to meet our organisational needs and sustainability goals.
- ▶ Maximise Social Value contributions through the contracts we procure.



By signing this Charter

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

is agreeing to embed sustainability considerations throughout our organisation.
We will measure and monitor progress and will strive to continually improve.

Signed:

NAME: John Roberts

TITLE: Chief Fire Officer

DATE: 21/12/22

Registered office: National Fire Chiefs Council Limited, West Midlands Fire Service HQ, 99 Vauxhall Road, Nechells, Birmingham B7 4HW. Registered in England as Limited Company No. 03677186. Registered in England as Charity No. 1074071. VAT Registration No. 902 1954 46

OUR ROADMAP TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025–2028

Our roadmap sets out the journey we are on to reduce our environmental impact, build resilience and leave a positive legacy for future generations.



2025
FOUNDATION

Building the foundations
for meaningful action

2026
ACCELERATION

Embedding solutions and
accelerating change

2027
INTEGRATION

Integrating sustainability
across all we do

2028
LEADERSHIP

Leading the way for a
resilient, low carbon future

OUR PRIORITY AREAS	2025	2026	2027	2028
CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION	Baseline emissions established (2024/25) and Carbon Management Plan in place.	Deliver key carbon reduction projects and expand renewable energy.	Significant reduction in emissions from 2024/25 baseline and embed low carbon solutions.	Achieve a cumulative 30%+ reduction in emissions and position WYFRS as a leader in the FRS sector.
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION	Climate risk assessment completed and adaptation plan developed.	Improve flood and heatwave resilience and embed adaptation into service planning.	Enhance early warning systems and strengthen community resilience programmes.	Mature climate resilient operations and continue to evolve our resilience planning.
RESOURCE EFFICIENCY	Waste audit and action plan in place. Reduce single-use plastics.	Increase reuse and refurbishment. Increase recycling and reduce waste to landfill.	Reduce total waste disposed and drive innovation in resource efficiency.	Achieve zero waste to landfill and resource efficiency embedded in all operations.
PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES	Environmental Sustainability Strategy launched and staff awareness activity established.	Deliver carbon literacy training and increase staff engagement in sustainability initiatives.	Embed sustainability awareness within learning, development and organisational culture.	Sustainability recognised as a shared responsibility across the Service.
SUPPLY CHAIN AND COLLABORATION	Sustainable procurement policy in place and supplier engagement launched.	Work with suppliers to reduce emissions and collaborate on innovation.	Influence and share best practice across the sector.	Sustainability and social value fully embedded within procurement and supplier relationships.
FLEET AND TRANSPORT	Fleet review and transition plan in place. Pilot alternative fuel vehicles.	Increase use of low-emission and electric vehicles in line with replacement programmes and expand EV infrastructure.	Low/zero emission fleet mainstreamed and sector leading fleet performance.	Fully optimised, low-emission fleet supporting our operational and sustainability goals.
BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE	Estate condition and energy audit completed. Quick win energy savings delivered.	Deliver energy efficiency upgrades and install renewable energy at key sites.	Carbon neutral new builds and major refurbishments and further reduce energy use.	Sustainable estate across the Service and future ready for generations to come.

OUR VISION

NET ZERO 2050



NET ZERO ACROSS OUR OPERATIONS BY 2050

Continuing to reduce emissions and invest in innovation, partnerships and nature to leave a positive legacy.



CLEAR DIRECTION

Aligned to legislation, our CRMP and the sustainable development goals.



MEASURABLE PROGRESS

Data driven decisions and transparent reporting.



STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Working with partners, suppliers and communities to deliver greater impact.



POSITIVE LEGACY

Protecting our environment and creating a safer, greener West Yorkshire.

OUR ENABLERS



GOVERNANCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY



DATA AND
INSIGHT



INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGY



FUNDING AND
INVESTMENT



COMMUNICATION
AND ENGAGEMENT

TOGETHER, WE WILL...

- ✓ Reduce our environmental impact
- ✓ Build resilience for the future
- ✓ Support our communities
- ✓ Use resources wisely
- ✓ Enable a sustainable and inclusive workplace



OUR AMBITION

**A SAFER, GREENER
WEST YORKSHIRE
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**



West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Environmental Sustainability Strategy

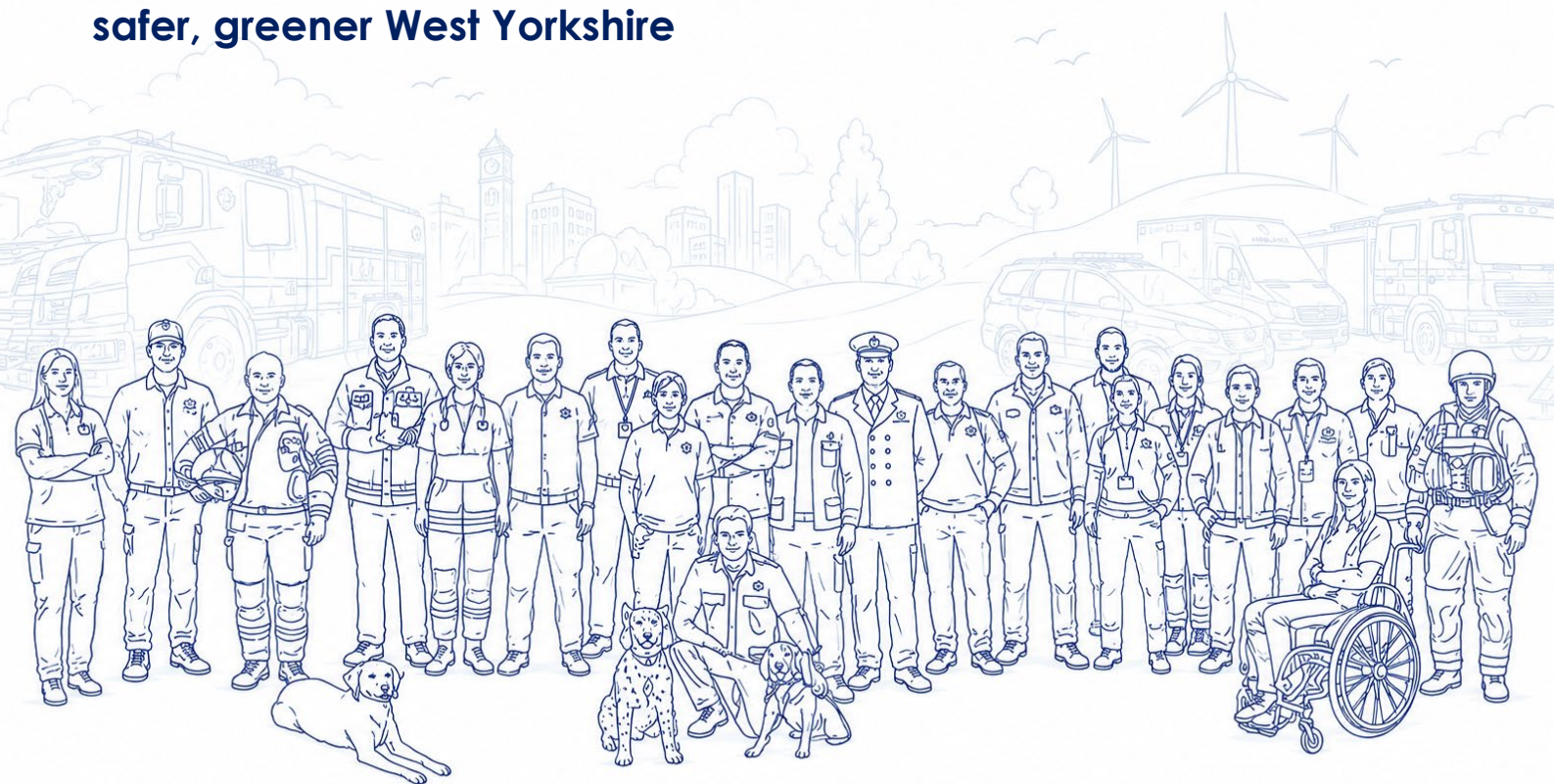
2025–2028



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26

Working together for a
safer, greener West Yorkshire



Making West Yorkshire Safer
www.westyorksfire.gov.uk

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Executive Summary

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) remains committed to delivering meaningful environmental improvements through the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025–2028.

Throughout 2025–2026, focused actions were undertaken across all strategic themes to reduce environmental impact, improve operational resilience and embed sustainability into everyday decision-making.

This annual report demonstrates the progress made during the first full year of delivery against the Strategy and highlights the collaborative efforts of departments, managers and colleagues across the Service.

Key achievements during 2025–2026 include:

- Completion of significant estates decarbonisation projects including fully electric new-build facilities and wider energy efficiency upgrades.
- Expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the estate.
- Continued reduction in false alarms, reducing unnecessary appliance movements and associated emissions.
- Ongoing embedding of climate resilience and wildfire risk reduction into operational planning.
- Progression of carbon literacy learning resources through collaboration with national partners.
- Introduction and enhancement of environmental monitoring systems including waste and recycling data.
- Increased promotion of wellbeing, sustainable travel and staff engagement initiatives.
- Continued integration of sustainability and social value within procurement processes.

The Service continues to face challenges associated with climate-driven incidents, increasing operational demand and the complexity of measuring environmental impacts across a large and diverse organisation. However, the progress outlined within this report demonstrates strong commitment toward achieving the Service ambition of operating in an innovative, sustainable and efficient manner.

Introduction

WYFRS recognises the increasing environmental challenges posed by climate change and remains committed to reducing the environmental impact of its operations while continuing to protect communities across West Yorkshire.

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025–2028 supports the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) priority to:

“Use resources in an innovative, sustainable and efficient manner to maximise value for money.”

This report provides an overview of the progress achieved during 2025–2026 against the strategic objectives and actions agreed within the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

Progress has been monitored throughout the year through quarterly reporting to the Environmental Working Group (EWG), with Responsible Officers leading delivery across departments.

The report demonstrates how sustainability considerations are being embedded across:

- Operational response
- Estates and infrastructure
- Fleet and travel
- Technology and digital transformation
- Procurement and supply chain management
- Waste and utilities management
- Staff wellbeing and engagement
- Biodiversity and water management

Strategic Overview

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy is structured around twelve key strategic themes:



Progress at a Glance – 2025-26

OVERALL STATUS SUMMARY



Progress reflects the status of strategic actions within each theme.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Strong progress across the majority of strategic themes.
- 🌿 Major infrastructure, fleet decarbonisation and recycling improvements delivered.
- 👥 Focused action continues on travel and utilities to address operational challenges.
- 💚 Wellbeing, communication and procurement embedded to support sustainable change.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Operational climate resilience actions progressing
- EV infrastructure expansion delivered
- Digital transformation and paper reduction
- Recycling systems and reporting significantly improved
- Staff wellbeing and engagement at the heart of our progress



AREAS OF FOCUS

- Reduce mileage and promote sustainable travel
- Improve utility monitoring and data quality
- Strengthen water usage reporting and performance monitoring
- Deliver carbon literacy training and sustainability awareness programmes
- Continue estate decarbonisation and energy efficiency improvements

PROGRESS BY STRATEGIC THEME



CARBON

ON TRACK

92%

Operational climate resilience and emissions reduction actions progressing.

2

ESTATES

ON TRACK

75%

Major infrastructure and energy projects delivered.

3

FLEET

ON TRACK

85%

EV infrastructure expansion progressing well.

4

TRAVEL

IN PROGRESS

50%

Mileage reduction remains a challenge due to operational demand.

5

TECHNOLOGY

ON TRACK

98%

Ossett data centre completed and entering final migration phase. ICT equipment donation framework established.

6

PROCUREMENT

ON TRACK

100%

Sustainability embedded into procurement processes.

7

WASTE & RECYCLING

ON TRACK

94%

Recycling systems and reporting significantly improved.

8

UTILITIES

IN PROGRESS

50%

Monitoring improvements underway but data challenges remain.

9

COMMUNICATION

ON TRACK

100%

Governance and staff communication established.

10

WELLBEING

ON TRACK

100%

Strong uptake in wellbeing initiatives and staff engagement.

11

BIODIVERSITY

ON TRACK

100%

Biodiversity projects and partnerships developing positively.

12

WATER

ON TRACK

75%

Monitoring and reporting systems continue to improve.



DELIVERING A GREENER, MORE RESILIENT SERVICE

Today and for future generations.

We remain committed to delivering our Environmental Sustainability Strategy and achieving **Net Zero by 2050**.



Strategic Theme Key Achievements During 2025-26

CARBON



Fire Prevention and Climate Resilience

Significant progress was made in embedding climate resilience within prevention and operational activity.

- Wildfire prevention and risk reduction activities continued throughout the year.
- Additional wildfire equipment and specialist resources were introduced to strengthen operational response capability.
- Wildfire safety campaigns and seasonal prevention activity supported community awareness and resilience.
- False alarms reduced significantly, resulting in approximately 2,000 fewer appliance journeys and 506 fewer false alarms compared to the three-year average.
- Dwelling fires reduced to their lowest level in the last five years.
- Climate resilience and sustainability objectives continue to be embedded within District Plans, Station Action Plans and Community Safety activity, with progress reviewed through quarterly governance arrangements.

Decarbonisation and Emissions Reduction

Progress continued against the Estates Capital Plan to reduce operational carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency across the estate.

- The new Keighley Fire Station development progressed as a fully electric facility powered by solar panels and air source heat pumps.
- Energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects continue supporting reductions in Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions.
- Future decarbonisation activity remains aligned with the Huddersfield Redevelopment Programme and wider Net Zero ambitions.
- Work continues to identify measurable indicators and reporting mechanisms to demonstrate carbon reduction performance and progress towards Net Zero 2050.

Carbon Literacy and Awareness

Progress was made nationally and locally to improve carbon literacy and sustainability awareness.

- WYFRS continued contributing to the development of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Carbon Literacy Toolkit and associated learning resources.
- National endorsement for the toolkit was secured through NFCC and National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) collaboration.
- Research continued into the development of e-learning packages to improve staff understanding of climate change, carbon emissions and sustainable behaviours.
- Opportunities to adapt learning resources developed by partner organisations continue to be explored.

Environmental Protection and Operational Response

Climate risk reduction and environmental protection measures continued to be embedded within operational response arrangements.

- CPD sessions were delivered to operational officers covering wildfire response, hazardous materials incidents, environmental impact mitigation and effective water application.
- Additional training was provided to strengthen first responder capability and environmental protection arrangements.
- Climate-related risk reduction continues to be embedded within prevention and emergency response planning.

Strengthening Climate Resilience

Further investment was made to improve the Service's ability to respond to climate-related incidents and protect communities, infrastructure and natural habitats.

- Investment in specialist wildfire resources continued, including enhancements at Slaithwaite and Halifax, with Halifax designated as a primary wildfire station.
- Additional resources are planned for Huddersfield and Illingworth to further strengthen operational resilience.
- Risk assessments have been introduced in collaboration with landowners to reduce wildfire risk and improve preparedness across vulnerable locations.

These initiatives support WYFRS's long-term objective of reducing exposure and vulnerability to climate-related incidents while protecting communities and the environment.

ESTATES



Energy Efficiency and Infrastructure Improvements

Significant progress was made delivering projects through the Estates Capital Plan to improve building efficiency and reduce environmental impact across the Estate.

- LED lighting upgrade schemes were completed at selected sites including Stanningley, Garforth and Wetherby.
- New high-efficiency boiler installations were completed at Todmorden and Skelmanthorpe.
- The new Keighley Fire Station development progressed as a fully electric facility utilising air source heat pump technology.
- Major redevelopment and refurbishment projects continue considering low-carbon technologies and renewable energy opportunities, where feasible.

Building Management Systems and Smart Technology

Progress continued to improve monitoring, control and operational efficiency across WYFRS buildings.

- Building Management System (BMS) upgrades progressed across identified sites.
- Capital investment funding was allocated to support improvements in building controls and energy performance.
- Works commenced to replace outdated and inefficient systems, supporting improved energy management and staff working environments.

Decarbonisation and Energy Monitoring

Work continued to strengthen energy monitoring and support long-term estate decarbonisation planning.

- Engagement with NPower and other providers progressed to improve access to intelligent energy analytics and half-hourly meter data.
- Work continued to improve utility monitoring systems and identify opportunities for more accurate sitewide reporting.
- Future estates decarbonisation activity remains aligned with the wider Estates Capital Plan and Net Zero 2050 ambitions.

FLEET



Fleet Modernisation and Emissions Reduction

Progress continued throughout the year to improve fleet efficiency and reduce vehicle emissions.

- All frontline operational appliances were upgraded to Euro 6e emissions standards, with the final six appliances delivered during 2025–2026.
- Work continued to identify suitable support vehicles for future EV conversion through the Dynamon fleet analysis project.

- Fleet replacement planning remains aligned with the transition towards lower-emission and electric vehicles.

Vehicle Telematics and Performance Monitoring

Investment continued in technology to improve fleet monitoring and operational efficiency.

- The fleet telematics contract was renewed to support improved monitoring and reporting.
- Work commenced with suppliers to expand vehicle performance monitoring and identify available emissions and efficiency data.
- Preparations were completed for telematics monitoring of electric vehicles, with further trials scheduled during 2026–2027.
- Enhanced monitoring will support the identification of idling, fuel efficiency improvements and future driver development opportunities.

Alternative Fuels and Future Technologies

Research continued into alternative fuel technologies and future fleet decarbonisation opportunities.

- Investigation into Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as an alternative fuel was undertaken, although further development has been paused due to cost considerations.
- National developments in hydrogen and zero-emission emergency response vehicles continue to be monitored through NFCC and the Zero Emission Powered Appliance (ZEPA) programme.
- Learning from national projects will help inform future fleet replacement and decarbonisation decisions.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Significant progress was made expanding EV charging infrastructure across the estate to support fleet electrification.

- EV charging infrastructure continued to be installed across operational sites and Fire Service Headquarters (FSHQ) locations.
- Collaborative work progressed with West Yorkshire Police, Yorkshire Ambulance Service and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to explore opportunities for shared charging infrastructure.
- Additional installations were planned across multiple stations in line with the Estates Capital Plan.

EV Charging Infrastructure Progress

Charger Type	Installed
7kW	26
11kW	4
22kW	34
50kW	4

Charge points are now operational across a growing number of WYFRS locations, with further installations scheduled as part of the ongoing fleet electrification programme.

TRAVEL



Sustainable Travel and Hybrid Working

Hybrid working arrangements continued to support flexible working practices and help reduce unnecessary travel across the Service.

- Hybrid working continued across departments throughout the year, with arrangements reviewed following the transition to the new FSHQ.
- Microsoft Teams meetings remained a key method of communication, helping to reduce unnecessary journeys and support more efficient ways of working.
- Car sharing and journey reduction continue to be promoted where operationally appropriate.

Monitoring Business Mileage and Emissions

Work continued to improve understanding of travel patterns and identify opportunities to reduce mileage and associated emissions.

- Service vehicle mileage continued to be monitored throughout the year.
- An increase in mileage was identified, primarily driven by higher levels of prevention activity, increased community engagement and operational demand.
- While this reflects positive engagement with communities, it has also contributed to increased carbon emissions and reinforced the need to identify opportunities to reduce unnecessary journeys.
- CO₂ monitoring has been introduced for new Scania vehicles to improve emissions reporting and provide a more accurate understanding of fleet impacts.

Future Travel Reduction Activity

Travel reduction remains a key focus area within the Strategy.

- Work continues to identify priority actions to reduce avoidable mileage across the Service.
- Opportunities to further embed hybrid working, promote virtual meetings and encourage car sharing will continue to be explored.
- Travel and emissions data will be used to support future decision-making and targeted reduction initiatives.

TECHNOLOGY



Digital Transformation and Paper Reduction

Progress continued throughout the year to support more efficient and paperless ways of working across the Service.

- Following the transition to the new FSHQ, teams have increasingly adopted digital and paperless working practices.
- Archive records continue to be reviewed and securely destroyed in accordance with retention schedules.
- A master archive log has been established to support timely disposal of records and improve information governance.
- Ongoing reviews continue to identify opportunities to reduce paper usage and manual processes through digitisation and automation.

Data Centre Modernisation and Efficiency

Investment continued in modernising technology infrastructure to improve resilience, performance and energy efficiency.

- Construction of the new energy-efficient data centre at Ossett was completed in line with modern efficiency standards and best practice, with the project now entering the final stages of migration and commissioning.
- Approval was secured for data centre improvements at FSHQ, with commissioning and implementation activities continuing.
- These improvements will support more efficient technology infrastructure and contribute towards long-term sustainability objectives.

Printing and Environmental Reporting

Work continued to improve understanding of printing impacts and identify opportunities to reduce waste.

- Quarterly environmental reporting was introduced to provide analysis of printing activity across departments and service areas.

- Reporting arrangements are helping to identify trends, support reductions in printing and encourage more sustainable working practices.
- Further work will continue to strengthen monitoring and carbon reporting associated with printing activity.

Reuse, Recycling and Community Benefit

Progress was made in developing processes to maximise reuse opportunities and reduce electronic waste.

- Work was undertaken to understand governance, procurement and financial requirements relating to the donation of surplus equipment.
- Existing arrangements with the Service's Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) provider were reviewed and confirmed as supporting the reuse of equipment through charitable causes.
- Opportunities continue to be explored to repurpose technology and equipment where appropriate, helping to reduce waste and deliver wider community benefits.

PROCUREMENT



Sustainable and Compliant Procurement

Significant progress was made strengthening sustainability, equality and social value considerations across procurement activity.

- The Procurement Strategy 2025–2028 was completed, including Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).
- Procurement processes continued incorporating sustainability, equality, inclusion and environmental considerations with a minimum 10% social value weighting applied within tender evaluations.
- Procurement templates and tender documentation were updated to ensure compliance with the Procurement Act and wider sustainability objectives.
- A secure electronic procurement portal continued supporting efficient and transparent tender management processes.

Social Value and Ethical Supply Chains

New social value questions were introduced into tender processes to strengthen supplier accountability and community impact.

Examples included:

- Sustainable transport and electric vehicle usage.

- Workforce diversity, inclusion and wellbeing.
- Ethical supply chain management and modern slavery prevention.
- Community engagement, volunteering and local support activity.
- Skills development and workforce training initiatives.

A robust evaluation process remains in place to assess quality, cost, sustainability and social value outcomes across procurement activity.

Supply Chain Sustainability and Whole Life Costing

Work continued to improve understanding of supply chain sustainability impacts and strengthen long-term procurement decision-making.

- National sustainability policies and Blue Light Commercial guidance continued informing procurement best practice.
- Whole life costing considerations were embedded into Procurement Approval Documents (PADs) and Procurement Project Strategies (PPSs).
- Whole life costing is now consistently considered where relevant throughout tender specification, evaluation and contract management activity.

Supplier Assurance and Environmental Performance

Further progress was made in obtaining sustainability assurances from suppliers and monitoring environmental outcomes.

- Quality questionnaires continued requesting relevant environmental and sustainability information from bidders.
- Supplier assurances were obtained where relevant, including evidence relating to energy efficiency, emissions reduction and long-term environmental benefits.
- Contract management processes continue reviewing supplier commitments and sustainability performance following procurement completion.

Collaborative Procurement and Regional Working

Collaborative procurement activity continued strengthening partnership working and shared sustainability objectives across the region.

- The Regional Procurement Group (RPG) continued meeting regularly to explore collaborative opportunities.
- Collaborative procurement activity and savings continued to be monitored and reported through regional governance arrangements.

- WYFRS continued working collaboratively with North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Humberside Fire and Rescue Services to identify shared procurement opportunities and efficiencies.
- Progress against collaborative procurement objectives was reported as 100% complete for 2025–2026.

WASTE & RECYCLING



Recycling Infrastructure and Waste Segregation

Progress was made throughout the year to improve recycling facilities and support better waste segregation across the estate.

- New recycling stations and facilities were introduced across all Floors of the new FSHQ.
- Recycling communications and awareness campaigns were delivered to encourage staff participation and improve recycling practices.
- Work commenced to audit recycling resources across stations to gain a better understanding of waste segregation arrangements and identify opportunities for improvement.
- Engagement with Biffa included planned staff awareness session at FSHQ to promote recycling and improve understanding of waste streams.

Reuse and Repurposing of Materials

Work continued to maximise the reuse and recycling of equipment and materials where safe and appropriate.

- Digital equipment continues to be managed through a WEEE-compliant recycling and reuse partner.
- Transport Services continued recycling batteries, mixed metals and waste oil through approved disposal routes.
- Ongoing repair and maintenance of operational equipment and rescue gear has helped extend asset life and reduce waste.
- Opportunities to reuse and repurpose materials continue to be explored across service areas.

Waste Monitoring and Performance Reporting

Significant progress was made in strengthening waste data collection and environmental reporting.

- Access to the Biffa waste management portal was established, providing improved access to waste and recycling performance data.

- Waste statistics are now regularly reviewed and reported through Environmental Working Group meetings.
- Additional waste categories were incorporated into the carbon calculator, improving the accuracy of waste-related emissions reporting.
- Enhanced reporting arrangements now provide a stronger evidence base to support future waste reduction and recycling initiatives.

Environmental Compliance

Monitoring and compliance activities continued throughout the year to support environmental management objectives.

- The Environmental Legal Register continued to be maintained and reviewed as part of the Service's environmental management system.
- Waste management arrangements continue to be reviewed to ensure compliance with current and emerging legislative requirements, including Simpler Recycling regulations.

UTILITIES



Utilities Monitoring and Data Management

Progress continued throughout the year to improve utility monitoring processes and strengthen reporting accuracy across all WYFRS sites.

- Gas, electricity and water usage continued to be monitored weekly across the estate.
- Work progressed to improve the collection of utility data through smart metering and supplier portal access.
- Access to utilities reporting portals was established to support more accurate monitoring and analysis.
- Investigations continued into alternative reporting methods to address challenges obtaining accurate data from existing utility systems.
- Discussions commenced regarding the use of the Wave Utilities portal to strengthen water usage reporting and monitoring.

Energy Efficiency and Reduction Measures

Ongoing estate improvements continued supporting reductions in energy consumption and improved operational efficiency.

- Stations and District Managers continued reviewing utility usage and reporting irregularities through weekly, monthly and quarterly monitoring arrangements.

- The Estates Management Plan continued supporting upgrades and improvements aimed at reducing energy consumption across the estate.
- Monitoring arrangements continue supporting the identification of opportunities for improved energy efficiency and reduced utility usage.

Awareness and Continuous Improvement

Utility reduction and energy awareness activity continued throughout the year to support responsible consumption and behavioural change.

- Utility monitoring and reporting arrangements continue supporting informed decision-making and targeted improvement activity.
- Work remains ongoing to improve the accuracy, consistency and usability of utility consumption data across all sites.
- Utility reduction activity will continue throughout 2026–2027 as part of the wider Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Estates Management Plan.

COMMUNICATION



Staff Engagement and Awareness

Progress continued throughout the year to improve communication and engagement around environmental sustainability initiatives.

- Quarterly Environmental Working Group (EWG) meetings were held to share progress, discuss priorities and promote sustainability initiatives across the Service.
- Heads of Department received regular updates through the EWG, enabling key messages and initiatives to be communicated to teams across the organisation.
- Sustainability updates continued to be shared through established internal communication channels, helping to raise awareness and maintain engagement.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy Launch

During 2025–2026, the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025–2028 was finalised, approved and published, providing a clear framework for delivering sustainability objectives across the Service.

- The Strategy and accompanying Action Plan were developed and aligned with the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) and organisational priorities.
- Responsible owners were identified for each strategic objective and action, strengthening governance and accountability arrangements.

Building Sustainability Knowledge

Work commenced to explore opportunities for sustainability learning and awareness development across the workforce.

- Research continued into the potential implementation of sustainability e-learning resources to improve understanding of environmental issues and encourage sustainable behaviours.
- Development of carbon literacy resources and wider sustainability communications continues to support long-term awareness across the Service.
- Sustainability considerations are increasingly being embedded into service planning, governance and day-to-day decision-making.

WELLBEING



Wellbeing Promotion and Staff Engagement

A programme of wellbeing engagement activity was delivered throughout the year to improve awareness, accessibility and uptake of support services available to staff.

- A full programme of wellbeing presentations and webinars was delivered across operational and enabling services.
- 4 webinars were delivered to Green Book staff.
- 23 presentations were delivered to Grey Book staff during one quarter alone, with further sessions continuing throughout the year.
- Additional presentations were delivered throughout the year, ensuring all staff had access to wellbeing sessions or recorded materials.

Wellbeing Support Uptake

Strong engagement continued across multiple wellbeing initiatives and support services.

Examples of staff engagement throughout the year included:

- Record demand for the wellbeing fund during Q1, with all allocated budget utilised.
- 56 staff signed up to the “Walk this May” campaign.
- Over 180 additional sign-ups to the Wisdom wellbeing app were recorded throughout the year.
- Increased uptake of financial wellbeing initiatives through Serve and Protect Credit Union and the Byond Card scheme.

- Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) usage remained consistent, with between 51 and 69 employees accessing support each quarter.

Mental Health Training and Support

Significant investment continued in wellbeing training and mental health awareness initiatives.

Throughout the year:

- Multiple “Managing Mental Health” training sessions were delivered to Managers.
- Level 1 Welfare Officer training continued across departments.
- A new “Trauma Preparedness” course was developed and embedded into recruit training programmes.
- “From Stress to Strength” workshops were delivered at the Women in Fire Service Conference.
- Wellbeing into Retirement sessions continued supporting workforce transition planning.
- OHSW induction presentations were delivered to new recruits to promote available support services.

Monitoring, Communication and Continuous Improvement

Wellbeing interventions and engagement levels continued to be monitored and reviewed quarterly to identify trends and opportunities for improvement.

- Monthly wellbeing articles aligned to national health and wellbeing campaigns were shared across the Service.
- Statistical reviews continued informing targeted promotion activity.
- Work commenced on a new Wellbeing Directory to provide managers with clear preventative and supportive guidance during sickness episodes.
- Health outcomes and intervention usage continue to be reviewed regularly to support evidence-based improvements.

Cycle to Work Scheme

The Cycle to Work (CTW) scheme continued to support staff wellbeing and sustainable travel objectives throughout the reporting year.

During 2025–2026:

- 61 applications were received.
- 50 applications were approved.

- Staff feedback identified financial savings as the strongest motivator, followed closely by physical health and wellbeing benefits.
- Environmental benefits also scored highly within staff feedback surveys.

Quarterly promotion activity and engagement surveys continued throughout the year to maintain awareness and measure impact.

An annual survey is planned for April 2026 to capture longer-term wellbeing and carbon reduction benefits associated with the scheme.

Diversity, Inclusion and Workforce Development

Workforce diversity data remained stable throughout the year and demonstrated gradual improvements in ethnic minority representation.

- Disclosure rates remained consistent across reporting categories.
- The People Strategy 2025–2028 was implemented to strengthen workforce inclusion, capability and representation.
- Diversity monitoring demonstrated steady and encouraging progress across the reporting period.
- Workforce data provides stronger assurance that WYFRS is continuing to strengthen representation while maintaining operational resilience and workforce capability.

Employee Value Proposition and Sustainability Culture

Targeted employee value proposition messaging was developed highlighting environmental sustainability commitments, career development opportunities and employee wellbeing support.

- The WYFRS careers webpage was updated to reflect organisational values relating to sustainability, fulfilment, wellbeing and positive workplace culture.
- Sustainability messaging now forms part of wider workforce attraction and retention activity.
- The employee value proposition continues supporting recruitment, engagement and workforce motivation by reinforcing the Service commitment to sustainability and employee wellbeing.

BIODIVERSITY



Biodiversity and Wildlife Initiatives

Progress was made throughout the year to explore biodiversity best practices and identify opportunities to enhance wildlife support across the estate.

- WYFRS was inducted into the Hedgehog Preservation Society “Hedgehog Heroes” Wall of Fame following the introduction of wildlife warning stickers and labels on machinery across the estate.
- Preparations commenced to reintroduce beehives at FSHQ following completion of the new build programme.
- Opportunities for collaborative biodiversity initiatives with West Yorkshire Police at shared sites continued to be explored.
- A beekeeping social club was promoted internally to encourage staff engagement and awareness of biodiversity initiatives.

Partnership Working and Awareness

Work continued with environmental partners, local wildlife groups and staff to identify collaborative opportunities and embed biodiversity considerations into estate management and operational activity.

- Discussions with partners continued to support future biodiversity initiatives and shared environmental best practice.
- Awareness of biodiversity and wildlife protection continued to be promoted through internal engagement activity and sustainability communications.
- Wildfire prevention and awareness activity continued supporting the protection of natural habitats and ecosystems across West Yorkshire.

WATER



Water Monitoring and Consumption Analysis

Progress was made throughout the year to improve understanding of water consumption across the estate and identify opportunities for efficiency improvements.

- Water consumption data continued to be monitored through the Service's water provider, Wave Utilities.
- Quarterly reviews of water usage data were undertaken to identify trends, opportunities for efficiency improvements and potential cost savings.
- Work continued to improve access to consumption data and reporting systems to support more accurate monitoring and informed decision-making.
- Opportunities to strengthen water reporting and identify areas for reduction remain an ongoing focus.

Reducing Water Consumption

- Activity continued to minimise water usage where operationally practical while maintaining training and operational effectiveness.
- Greater use of offsite training facilities helped reduce reliance on Service premises and associated water consumption.
- Multi-agency exercises and operational training activities increasingly took place at external locations, including COMAH sites, derelict buildings and high-risk environments.
- Training delivered in realistic operational environments provides both operational benefits and opportunities to reduce resource consumption at Service sites.

Building Future Understanding

- Improving the understanding of water consumption remains a key priority within the Strategy.
- Work continues to explore methods for quantifying water usage associated with firefighting and training activities.
- Improved data collection and reporting arrangements will support future water reduction initiatives and performance monitoring.
- Opportunities to utilise technology and improved monitoring systems to reduce water consumption continue to be investigated.

Challenges and Future Focus

Challenges

While significant progress has been achieved during the first year of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, several challenges remain:

- Increasing climate-related incidents, particularly wildfires and extreme weather events, continue to place additional demands on operational resources and planning.
- Accurate collection and analysis of environmental performance data remains challenging, particularly in relation to utilities consumption, supply chain impacts and carbon reporting.
- Decarbonisation of specialist operational fleets remains dependent on emerging technologies, supporting infrastructure and the affordability of alternative fuel and vehicle solutions.
- Some long-term projects, including estate redevelopment and fleet transition programmes, require phased delivery over multiple years.

- Measuring the impact of behavioural change initiatives, such as carbon literacy and sustainability awareness programmes, remains an area for further development.

Future Focus

Building on the strong foundations established during 2025–2026, the focus will be on:

- Enhancing environmental performance monitoring and reporting to improve data quality and support evidence-based decision-making.
- Continuing delivery of estates decarbonisation projects, renewable energy initiatives and energy efficiency improvements.
- Expanding fleet electrification and supporting infrastructure in line with vehicle replacement programmes.
- Strengthening climate resilience through wildfire prevention, risk reduction, training and environmental protection activities.
- Launching carbon literacy learning resources to increase awareness and encourage sustainable behaviours across the workforce.
- Continuing to embed sustainability within procurement, operational planning and organisational decision-making.
- Increasing staff engagement through wellbeing, biodiversity, sustainable travel and environmental awareness initiatives.
- Supporting delivery of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025–2028 and the Service's long-term ambition of achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2050.

Governance and Accountability

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) continues to oversee implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and monitor progress against agreed actions.

Quarterly progress reporting arrangements have enabled:

- Ongoing performance monitoring
- Cross-department collaboration
- Identification of emerging risks and opportunities
- Accountability for strategic actions

Responsible owners remain identified for all objectives and actions within the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan.

Conclusion

Throughout 2025–2026, WYFRS has continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

The progress outlined within this report demonstrates how sustainability is increasingly being embedded across the organisation, supported by the commitment of employees and managers at all levels of the Service.

While challenges remain, particularly in relation to increasing climate-related incidents and the complexity of environmental data monitoring, the Service has established strong foundations for continued improvement.

Appendices



Our Roadmap to a
Sustainable Future :

Our Roadmap to a Sustainable Future

[Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025/2028](#)

[THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development](#)

OFFICIAL

Agenda item: 15

Programme of Change Update

Full Authority

Date:	25 September 2026
Submitted by:	Director of Corporate Services
Purpose:	To provide an update on progress across the Programme of Change, including portfolio performance, governance arrangements and delivery against organisational priorities.
Recommendations:	That Members note the contents of the report.
Summary:	The Programme of Change continues to progress well, with the majority of projects and programmes on track. Governance arrangements remain effective and no decisions or escalations are required from the Fire Authority at this time.

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category:	None
Contact Officer:	Laura Boocock, Strategic Development GM Laura.Boocock01@westyorksfire.gov.uk
Background papers open to inspection:	None
Annexes:	Annex 1 – Programme of Change summary Annex 2 – Programme of Change Portfolio Dashboard

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Programme of Change is a core element of the strategic planning cycle, ensuring that projects and initiatives deliver measurable benefits aligned with organisational priorities.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on progress since the last meeting and outlines the current position of the Programme of Change.
- 1.3 Oversight is provided through Change Management Board (CMB), which supports effective governance, informed decision-making and delivery of priority projects and programmes.

2. Information

- 2.1 The Programme of Change continues to progress well, with delivery aligned to organisational priorities and the majority of projects and programmes performing as planned. Governance through Change Management Board (CMB) provides effective oversight of change activity across the organisation.
- 2.2 There are currently 10 projects and programmes within the Programme of Change, comprising 8 reported as on track, 1 reported as behind schedule, and 1 progressing through evaluation and benefits realisation.
- 2.3 Since the previous reporting period, change controls have been approved through CMB where required, enabling delivery timelines to be adjusted and ensuring projects remain on track against revised baselines.
- 2.4 During the reporting period, CMB reviewed project performance, risks, issues, benefits and dependencies across the portfolio. No significant matters requiring escalation to the Authority were identified, and projects continue to be managed through established governance arrangements.
- 2.5 Governance and reporting arrangements continue to be refined to support effective portfolio oversight, including the introduction of enhanced portfolio reporting and dashboard information to improve visibility and support informed decision-making. A dashboard snapshot is provided at [Appendix 2](#).
- 2.6 [Annex 1](#) provides a summary of all projects and programmes within the Programme of Change, including current status, key milestone dates and a brief progress update.
- 2.7 No decisions or escalations are required from the Authority at this time, with project risks, issues and changes being effectively managed through existing governance processes.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Although there are no financial implications arising from this report each project completed a full business case highlighting any financial implications.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer has considered this report and is satisfied it is presented in compliance with the Authority's Constitution.

5. Human Resource and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 There are no Human Resources and Diversity implications arising from this report at the time of submission.
- 5.2 All projects are required to assess the HR implications and undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Are the recommendations within this report subject to Equality Impact Assessment as outlined in the EIA guidance? Yes
- 6.2 Each project/programme is required to complete an individual EIA.
- 6.3 The EIA is available on request from the report author or from t

7. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Implications

- 7.1 There are no Health and Safety implications arising from this report at the time of submission.

8. Environmental Implications

- 8.1 There are no Environmental implications arising from this report at the time of submission.

9. Risk Management Implications

- 9.1 There are no Risk Management implications arising from this report at the time of submission.

10. Duty to Collaborate Implications (Police and Crime Act 2017)

- 10.1 None.

11. Your Fire and Rescue Service Priorities

- 11.1 This report links with the Community Risk Management Plan 2025-28 strategic priorities below:
- Provide a safe, effective and resilient response to local and national emergencies.
 - Focus our activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
 - Enhance the health, safety, and well-being of our people.
 - Prioritise a people first mindset through ethical and professional leadership and management

- Work with partners and communities to deliver our services.
- Use resources in an innovative, sustainable, and efficient manner to maximise value for money.
- Further develop a culture of excellence, equality, learning, and inclusion.

12. Conclusions

- 12.1 The Programme of Change continues to make good progress, with the majority of projects and programmes delivering in line with approved plans and organisational priorities.
- 12.2 Governance arrangements through the Change Management Board remain effective, ensuring risks, issues, and change controls are managed within the established framework.
- 12.3 One programme is currently reported as behind schedule. Mitigating actions are in place and ongoing review activity is supporting progression towards the next phase of delivery, with no significant impact anticipated on the overall Programme of Change.
- 12.4 Governance and reporting arrangements continue to mature through ongoing improvements to portfolio oversight, performance reporting and decision-making, supported by enhanced portfolio dashboard reporting.
- 12.5 No decisions or actions are required from the Fire Authority at this time.

Annex 1 – Programme of Change Summary

Project status information is based on reports submitted to the CMB on 03/09/2026.

Project / Programme	Short Description	Target Completion	Current Status	Update/Notes
Building Risk Database	Development of a new risk-based information platform to support operational planning and inspection readiness	01/04/2027	On Track	Development continues to plan following approval of revised go-live date of April 2027. System testing and process reviews are progressing, with work underway to enhance operational risk information and reporting capabilities.
Control Project	Replacement of mobilising system and ICCS for operational resilience	31/12/2026	On Track	Project remains on track. Recent system resilience has been successfully tested, with lessons learned from the July outage implemented and ongoing engagement with system suppliers to support future service improvements.
Cyber Remediation PgM	Programme to strengthen cyber security resilience, addressing identified vulnerabilities and implementing improved protective measures	31/12/2027	On Track	Progress continues across a range of cyber security improvements, including penetration testing, enhanced email protection, data classification controls and secure application development.

Digital and Data Programme	Migration to Power Platform and automation	31/12/2028	On Track	Delivery continues across key digital transformation initiatives, including infrastructure upgrades, device replacement, wireless network improvements and Power Platform solutions to support service modernisation.
Grenfell Programme Phase 2	Implementation of outstanding objectives from Grenfell Programme Phase 1, incorporating recent national-level changes	31/03/2027	On Track	Good progress continues with the majority of objectives on track. Operational training, guidance development and collaboration with national partners remain key areas of focus.
Huddersfield Fire Station	Fire station redevelopment to support operational resilience and modernised facilities	31/12/2027	On Track	Initial stakeholder engagement has been completed and work is progressing to develop project costs and refine requirements to support the next stage of the redevelopment.
One Data Collection	Development of a unified internal data collection process to streamline reporting and improve data quality	28/06/2026	Complete	Project delivery is complete and has entered evaluation. A new dashboard and reporting process have been developed, with implementation planned for future national data return.
Organisational Readiness Programme	Ensuring WYFRS is ready for change and resilient to risk by aligning resources, strengthening governance, and embedding continuous improvement to maintain service delivery	Tbc	Behind schedule	Business cases have been approved, and a review of governance, benefits management and programme resource requirements is underway. Project review activity is continuing to support progression into the next phase.
People Digital PgM	Modernisation of people-related digital systems	10/10/2028	On Track	Progress continues across key system implementations, including PDR Pro and

	and processes to improve efficiency, user experience and organisational insight			HR/Rostering developments. Data migration, training and future process design activities are underway.
Supporting Good Attendance	Workforce wellbeing and attendance improvement	Tbc	On Track	Significant progress has been made, including implementation of the 1-4-7 Sickness Reporting Protocol, manager training and improved workforce reporting. The project is now focused on embedding changes and realising benefits.

Annex 2 – Programme of Change Portfolio Dashboard

The dashboard below provides a visual summary of the current Programme of Change portfolio position as reported to Change Management Board on 3 September 2026.

