

Section 2: Summary of the Main Objectives of this Plan

The main objectives that Kilkenny County Council wishes to achieve during the life of this Plan (2022– 2026) for a particular chapter are summarised at the end of each chapter. The following is a collection of these main objectives under the relevant chapter headings -

Section 3 - Organisation

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue will aim to maintain its' current staffing complement of Retained Fire Personnel and maintenance personnel.

However, Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Services will seek to increase the staff complement of technical fire officer and administrative grades to discharge both its discretionary and statutory functions in line with the Workforce Plan and the Corporate Risk Register.

It is intended to review and update the current agency arrangements for the provision of Fire Cover that are in place with Tipperary, Laois, Carlow and Wexford. It is intended to review and update a new Section 85 agreement or similar arrangement with Waterford City and County Council.

It is intended to implement the general principles of nearest available resource policy as outlined by the NDFEM.

Section 4 - Fire Stations

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will build new fire stations for Urlingford and Kilkenny City fire brigades subject to Government funding during the period of this plan. It also intends to carry out ongoing maintenance at all Fire Stations through its own resources.

Section 5 - Fire Appliances

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will apply for Capital Grant Aid for the replacement of Class B Fire Appliances.

The following appliances will need to be replaced -

- 2006 Alpha 1 Class B Pumping Appliance at Freshford Fire Station,
- 2007 Alpha 1 Class B Pumping Appliance at Castlecomer Fire Station,
- 2007 Alpha 1 Class B Pumping Appliance at Urlingford Fire Station,
- 2010 Alpha 1 Class B Pumping Appliance at Graiguenamanagh Fire Station,
- 2002 Alpha 2 Class B Pumping Appliance at Kilkenny City Fire Station,
- 2002 Alpha 2 Class B Pumping Appliance at Castlecomer Fire Station,

- 2007 Alpha 2 Class B Pumping Appliance at Urlingford Fire Station,
- 2003 Alpha 2 Class B Pumping Appliance at Callan Fire Station,
- 2004 Alpha 2 Class B Pumping Appliance at Graiguenamanagh Fire Station.

The following 4-wheel drive vehicles will need to be replaced-

- 2003 Jeep in Kilkenny City Fire Station,
- 2007 Jeep in Castlecomer Fire Station,
- 2007 Jeep in Urlingford Fire Station,
- 2011 Jeep in Graiguenamanagh Fire Station.

The following specials will need to be replaced -

- 2002 Emergency Tender Kilkenny City Fire Station,
- 2006 Incident Command Vehicle in Castlecomer Fire Station,
- 2006 Hydraulic Platform in Kilkenny City Fire Station,
- 2019 Fire Brigade Mechanic support vehicle.

Section 6 - Equipment

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will maintain all equipment in accordance with its' Equipment Maintenance Policy which outlines the frequency and type of inspection for all equipment.

It is intended to apply for Capital Aid Grant Funding for equipment on an on-going basis as the need arises. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service propose to purchase and roll out and develop and embed a new asset management system as appropriate subject to funding being made available by Kilkenny County Council.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to provide the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to all personnel and to procure this PPE to the highest standards. All PPE will be maintained in accordance with the Kilkenny County Council Policy and Procedure for the Managing the Utilisation of Personal Protective Equipment (SMS/PP/P1) (Appendix C).

Section 7 - Water Supplies

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service intend to maintain as a minimum three (3no) Water Tankers at their existing fire stations and to work with the relevant Water Authorities to develop access to available water supplies for fire-fighting purposes in County Kilkenny.

GIS Maps are available of the network and many of the hydrant locations are Geo-Coded. It is intended to work with the relevant Water Authorities as requested in order to carry out a comprehensive survey “to examine the location and adequacy of water supplies for fire-fighting purposes” as required by Section 10(10) of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003.

Guidance Specification for Fire Hydrants and Fire Water Supplies – September 2021, version 21.2 will be reviewed periodically.

Section 8 - Training

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service intends delivering training in accordance with its’ Training Guidance Document for the period of this plan and to take account of and where appropriate implement guidance from the NDFEM in relation to training.

In addition to training courses it is the policy of Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service to provide one-hundred and four (104no) hours On-Station training with an additional thirty-two (32no) hours quarterly testing in each station annually and twenty (20no) hours block training annually.

Section 9 - Health and Safety

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service is committed to safeguarding, as far as is reasonably practicable the Safety, Health and Welfare of all employees, contractors and visitors. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service are committed to attaining full compliance with the Local Authority Safety Management System (LASMS).

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service are committed to attaining full compliance with the Local Authority Safety Management System (LA SMS) and subject to resources may move to ISO 45001 accreditation.

Section 10 – Communications

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will remain a Fire Authority within the Eastern Regional Communications Centre Shared Services Group (this may change due to national policy) and will implement new communications technology.

Section 85 Agreement (Appendix L) in relation to receipt of calls to ERCC will need to be reviewed and updated.

The upgrading of the Computer Aided Mobilisation System and national policy on the funding model for the three control centres, is likely to result in an increased financial

contribution from Kilkenny County Council to the Eastern Regional Communications Centre (ERCC) on an annual basis.

Section II - Operational Roles and Procedures

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will attend all its core incident types, in line with the principles of Keeping Communities Safe (KCS). It will also attend all discretionary incident types as outlined by Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service. Road hazard incidents are normally dealt with by the Roads Section of Kilkenny County Council or the Area Office during normal working hours or by the National Road Authority on Motorways at all times – the Fire Service will assist in these operations if requested by an Area or Road Engineer, by An Garda Síochána or the National Roads Authority. It is also intended to put arrangements in place to apportion the cost of attendance at these incidents to the appropriate Road Authority.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will generally not attend incidents that are listed in KCS as being inappropriate to attend.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to work in accordance with Operational Guidance Documents that have been prepared by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM). It is intended to continue to develop seven (7no) Pre-Incident Plans (PIP) per annum, giving a total of thirty-five (35no) additional plans by the end of 2026.

There is a high number of special service incidents in County Kilkenny compared to the national average. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service attend special services incident types at the specific request of Kilkenny County Council. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service may consider to commence invoicing other sections of Kilkenny County Council (Area offices, Housing Section) for services rendered. These incident rates may need to be reviewed.

It is intended that Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service would work with other sections in Kilkenny County Council, in particular the Housing Section and the Community and Enterprise Section, to develop initiatives to work with the general public and Community Groups to reduce the number of Chimney Fires in the City and County of Kilkenny.

In addition, Pre-Incident Planning (PIP) is carried out by Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service on premises / facilities that are deemed to be a specific risk. Pre-Incident Plans are prepared in advance of an incident and contain an overview of the facility and tabulated information about the risk summarising the critical aspects of a building from a Fire Service response.

The use of Mobile Electronic Tablets / Wi-Fi enabling for station and fire appliances for Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service is to be maintained. These tablets have dynamic information such as GPS Maps, Fire Hydrants locations, Motorway Emergency access routes, Railway access routes, Hazardous Materials Data, MSDS, Data in relation to various premises and new car technology, etc.

These tablets will assist in the management and viewing of the collated pre-incident planning forms / data / drawings.

Section 12 - Operational Standards

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will maintain the current crewing complements in Kilkenny City, Castlecomer, Freshford, Urlingford, Thomastown, Callan and Graiguenamanagh Fire Brigades. However, this will be reviewed with staff and in line with NDFEM Guidance documents.

The current crewing level in Kilkenny City is fourteen (14no). It is proposed to leave the current crew complement and the crewing arrangement at Kilkenny City Fire Station, however, this will be reviewed with staff and in line with NDFEM Guidance documents.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will aim to maintain existing arrangements in place to guarantee the following number of personnel to be available for Call-Outs at all times in each station - Kilkenny City (9), Castlecomer (5), Freshford (5), Urlingford (5), Thomastown (5), Callan (5) and Graiguenamanagh (5).

In general, there will be either a Retained Station Officer and/or a Retained Sub-Station Officer available for Call-Out at all times in each Fire Station.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service shall consider the introduction of selective calling of crews to special appliances e.g. *Water Tankers, Emergency Tender appliance, Combined Class B / Aerial Appliance*. This shall be done in accordance with the KCS Guidance and consultation between management and staff.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service aims to reduce the mobilisation times for all brigades by implementing a time in attendance management system in accordance with national guidance through management and staff consultation.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service aims to increase the percentage of travel time incidents attended within ten (10no) minutes and to decrease the % in the other two categories. These trends will be monitored.

Station fire ground boundaries will be reviewed when Phase 2 of the Risk Based Approach Project is released by the NDFEM and consultation with the relevant fire brigades will take

place (*data set that will advise the quickest travel time for initial and subsequent Fire Service Responses into each addressable location*) and in conjunction with analysis from the Eastern Regional Communications Centre to ensure that the Fire Appliances that can respond to an address in the shortest period of time are mobilised.

The first Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service Class B Appliance are currently attending Incidents well within the Target Travel Times set out in KCS. As more data becomes available from the NDFEM, Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will review the data and make changes to the current arrangements if appropriate.

Section 85 Agreements (Appendix F) or other similar arrangements under Local Government Acts in relation to fire cover arrangements with adjoining counties will need to be reviewed and updated in accordance with relevant and current Local Government Acts.

There are no known concerns at this time with the capability of Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service to meet the KCS Targets for Travel Time for Special Appliances.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to review the guidance in KCS in relation to responding to large scale incidents.

Section 13 - Fire Safety – Fire Prevention

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service intend to comply with all relevant Fire Prevention Legislation and Regulations. There is a sharing of information between Fire Prevention and Operations, particularly for high-risk premises.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to introduce initiatives to reduce the fire fatality rate in the City and County of Kilkenny.

It is intended that Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service would develop initiatives to work with premises to reduce unwanted fire calls in Kilkenny City and County.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to schedule Fire Station Open Days in all seven fire stations. Ongoing public messaging campaigns will be maintained to encourage members of the public to install smoke alarms and to test their smoke alarms once a week to ensure that they are working.

Vulnerable persons / households will be targeted by using census data combined with other available data sources, such as from partner agencies and community sections of the Local Authority to increase their fire safety awareness.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will also work with the Community Section of Kilkenny County Council with the aim of having a working smoking alarm fitted subject to funding

allocation. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to deliver its Fire Safety Plan 2021-2026 (Appendix P).

Section 14 - Major Emergency Management

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will prepare itself for large scale and inter-agency operations through participation in appropriate training and exercises. The Fire and Rescue Service will also further develop relationships with the Civil Defence as appropriate, in particular in preparation for joint assistance in the event of a Major Emergency occurring. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service will continue to participate on the Regional Working and Steering Groups as appropriate.