



# THE FIRE BRIGADE SOCIETY

## 2019 - 2020 OPERATIONAL PLAN

This Operational Plan was agreed by a membership vote, the results being announced at the 2018-19 Annual General Meeting.

### PUBLICATIONS & DISTRIBUTION UNITS

**FIRE COVER:** The production costs for a 52 page plus cover, 700 off run, of Fire Cover (FC) for 2019-20 (FC 224 – FC 227) follows. Cost will rise by 3% across the board. (2018-19 rates are in brackets)

For a 52 page Fire Cover plus Cover £2,587 (£2,512). The costs for add-ons are: four extra colour pages £214 (£208), four extra B & W pages / insert £148 (£144) converting four existing B & W pages to colour £66 (£64)

The publication schedule will be FC 224, May - June 2019, FC 225, August 2019, FC 226, November 2019 and FC 227 February 2020. Copy dates will appear on page 1 of FC.

No changes to the titling, publication content, the approach to material submitted for Fire Cover, or editing, are planned for the period and no Special Publication is offered for authority due to financial constraints. All aspects of the production of FC will continue to be carried out electronically.

Space allocation within FC for geographical / regional reports, and some programmed features, may be introduced during the scope of this Operational Plan.

The budget summary to deliver this Operational Plan follows:

ITEM	2019-20 BUDGET
FC PRINTING	£10,348
FC PRODUCTION EXPENSES	£30
ET TRAVEL COSTS	£150
TOTAL	£10,528

*Ralph Horton, Les Edkins, Mike Smith, Editorial Team.*

**DISTRIBUTION:** At the time of formulating this plan, the distribution of Fire Cover was set to come in under budget for 2018-2019. As there are no plans in the pipeline for any special publications, or larger editions of Fire Cover, nor any other major changes, it should be easy to set a budget for next year on a historical cost, plus inflation, basis. The major complicating factor is Brexit, as currently there is no certainty how the outcome will affect prices. The historical evidence up to now indicates a reduction in the value of the pound, affecting the price of imported paper, etc. I would like to make some provision for an adverse movement under these circumstances.

The current budget is £3,500, and with inflation running at 2.5% that should give a projected budget of £3,587.50. I think it prudent to assume that postal charges will rise at an above inflation rate, and that the cost of imported materials will also. I suggest that a budget of £3,750 (approx. 7% increase) is probably a more realistic figure to work with. Naturally, every endeavour will be made to minimise, and reduce costs, any surplus being 'returned' to general funds at the end of the year. However, I must make the proviso that if circumstances prove to be more adverse than at first assumed, we will need to revise the requirements.

*Richard Williams, Distribution Manager.*

**MEMBERSHIP SERVICES:** There are no major changes planned to the way that membership renewals will be handled. Those who have set up payment plans via Direct Debit or Standing Order will have their cards distributed with Fire Cover issue 223 (Feb / Mar 2019). Members who pay using other means will have their cards sent out with FC 224 (May / June), unless they send a stamped envelope with their payment details.

I hope to be able to spend more time on recruitment of new members in 2019-2020. I will continue to use older spare copies of Fire Cover as give-aways, (I have a pallet full of them in my garage) in order to try and attract more members. More will be provided to the NESM in Sheffield, and if any members know of any rallies that they think might have some potential, please let me know. All these involve some expense, even if it is only the despatch of the mags to the organisers, though that is normally done through members attending.

There should be minimal expense for actual membership costs next year; printing renewal paper work, cards, labels etc. and as the budget set for 2018-2019 was not used I propose to keep to the same target as last year, a sum of £500 in total.

Gordon Whitehead has indicated that the 2019-2020 Society year will be the last that he will deal with the Direct Debit and PayPal renewals for me. I must thank Gordon heartily for all the help he has given me since I took over the position, and especially for his continued support with these two payment options. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Gordon a happy "retirement" from Society duties. If anyone is interested in assisting with these please contact me for details.

***Richard Williams, Membership Secretary.***

## **EVENT & CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION**

**EVENTS:** Plans are progressing for The Society visit to be in Devon and Somerset on the 14-16<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Planning is in hand for an Overseas Visit in late spring, with the possibility of a second in late summer.

Regional visits being currently proposed are as follows; one 3 day FBS South West, 2-3 FBS Scotland, one FBS London, two FBS West Midland, one joint FBS West Midland / FBS Wales, one FBS Wales, one FBS North East and a number in FBS Ireland.

As always, these are subject to confirmation, and can be changed at short notice due to scheduling requirements of our host brigades. A copy of 'What's On' will be distributed with the next edition of Fire Cover, and it is hoped to have a preliminary copy on the website in the New Year. It is important that members consult the web site regularly, as events are added to the list, or changes made far more often than Fire Cover can be published. What's On, also tries to list some non-Society events that may be of interest to members.

Visits will be self-funding with all costs, including presentations being paid for by the attendees

The Society has been invited to the 2019 Fire Fighters Commemorative Service at the NMA Alrewas and will no doubt be invited to the Civil Defence event too. In the past the wreaths presented have often been self-funded by donation. However, allowance for the costs of wreaths, if attendance is agreed, of £60 must be made. It is emphasized that any member can attend these respectful, yet colourful events free of charge, but local parking charges may apply.

**Newsletters:** Geographical / regional newsletters will be distributed electronically to members in those localities. Where Newsletters need to be hardcopy these will be distributed with the next available Fire Cover distribution or by post. I will be seeking to ensure the sizing of geographical / regional Newsletters is maintained as detailed in the Handbook for Appointed Officers and Volunteers. It is not expected that hard copy documents will be in colour unless produced 'freely' and at no cost to the Society.

There are still a number of Regions that do not have Officers in place. If yours is one of them, and you would like to have a visit to your local brigades, or a Newsletter, please put yourself forward for the post. It need not take up a great deal of your time, though inevitably it will take some, but the rewards can be extensive. I will be available to assist and advise if needed, as will other Officers of The Society.

The proposed 2019-20 budget is: Geographical / Regional Newsletters (printing) £200, expenses (non -visit related travel, postage, telephone, etc.) £60 NMA and other presentations £60, a total of £320. ***Steve Dodge, Events Manager.***

**FBS SALES:** It is hoped that in 2019-20 the Sales Unit will be in a position to start contributing to Society Funds.

***Eddie Mills, Sales Unit Manager***

**FBS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** As with the previous Operational Plan, a budget of £439 will be required to maintain the new web site platform.

***Steve Udall, IT Manager.***

**FBS FINANCE:** All the Unit Operational Plans combine to form The Society's Operational Plan. The budget for these plans will depend on income. With no firm indications on income at this stage of planning, it has been assumed that income will be similar to that of 2018-19. Hence financially the plans are sound. However, the effect of Brexit may call for re-assessment as the year progresses.

***Brian Jackson, Treasurer.***