



THE FIRE BRIGADE SOCIETY

2020-2021 OPERATIONAL PLAN

This Operational Plan was agreed by a membership vote, the results being announced at the 2019-20 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 2020-21 (FC 228 – FC 231) follows. Cost will rise by 2% (3%) across the board. (2019-20 rates are in brackets)

For a 52 page Fire Cover plus Cover £2,639 (£2,587). The costs for 'add-ons' are: four extra colour pages £218 (£214), four extra B & W pages / insert £151 (£148) converting four existing B & W pages to colour £67 (£66)

The publication schedule will be FC 228, May - June 2020, FC 229, August 2020, FC 230, November 2020 and FC 231 February 2021. Copy dates will appear on page 1 of FC.

It is accepted that should any 'Brexit effects' have bearing on these rates we will address the matter jointly with our printers.

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. However, there may be an opportunity of a feature suitable for presentation as a supplement to FC, similar to 'Flood Ex' and 'Made in the USA', at a cost of £320. All aspects of the production of FC will continue to be carried out electronically.

Space allocation within FC for geographical / local reports, and some programmed features, has on occasions been applied and may require further application during the scope of this Operational Plan.

All geographical / local newsletters and items posted on the website are proofed and checked for adherence to standards set out in the 'Handbook for Appointed Officers and Volunteers' before distribution / posting.

The bi-annual FBS Photo DVD, due for publication in this Society year is under review.

A4 binders for Fire Cover may be offered for sale, depending on demand, through Fire Cover during this Society year.

The budget summary to deliver this Operational Plan follows:

ITEM	2019-20 BUDGET
FC PRINTING	£10,556
SUPPLEMENT (8 pages)	£320
FC PRODUCTION EXPENSES	£24
ET TRAVEL COSTS	£100
TOTAL	£11,000

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

DISTRIBUTION (Part of Membership Services): I am aware of the plan the Editorial Team have for one slightly larger edition of Fire Cover which may take the magazine into the next postal bracket. This will incur an extra cost, at current prices of about £200. The revised constitution may be circulated with a Fire Cover in this period and may move distribution into higher postal bracket. Unfortunately, Royal Mail does not announce their price increases until after we need to formulate the Unit's budget, so an element of judgement has to be applied.

The 2019-20 budget is £3,750, but an outturn of £3,200 is expected. Adding two extra weight postings to this, give a total of £3,600 at current prices. Assuming postage rates increase by 2.5%, and that the incidentals such as envelopes, label, and ink follow general inflation, a budget of £3,850 will be required for 2020-21.

The major complicating factor is, Brexit and 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. The pound has started, for the moment, to rise again, and has probably already factored into contracts for next year. 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

MEMBERSHIP: 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 FC 227 (Feb 2020). Members who pay using other means will have their cards sent out with FC 228 (May / June 2020), 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 2020-2021. I will continue to use the stock of older spare copies of Fire Cover as give-aways, in order to try and attract more members. More will be provided to the National Emergency Services Museum 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 magazines to the organisers, though that is normally done through members attending. However, the response to this initiative has not been great.

There should be minimal expense for actual membership costs next year; printing renewal paper work, membership cards, labels, etc. 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 was 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: The 2020 National Visit will be to Lincolnshire.

The International Visit will be to Frankfurt and surrounds on 14th and 15th August 2020, organised and managed by Ralph Horton and Stephan Roth.

The Society is not organising a visit to Interschutz 2020. Consideration has been given to a visit on weekend following the exhibition. However, this massive exhibition attracts a lot of fire personnel from both local services and within reasonable travelling distance in Europe. The Friday, and now introduced this year Saturday, attracts volunteer brigades. Local brigades, like Hannover, are also heavily involved in the exhibition. This does reduce 'cover' and as such a host willing to accommodate us has not been secure.

FBS Ireland are planning four visits Wexford (April 2020), Dublin City (June 2020), Northern Ireland (August 2020) and Kerry (September).

Geographical and local visits are currently being planned and details will be provided in 'What's On 2020-21', which will be distributed in accordance with individual member's elected method and posted on The Society's web site.

The proposed 2020-21 budget is: geographical / local Newsletters (printing) £200, expenses (non -visit related travel, postage, telephone, etc.) £200, a total of £400.

Steve Dodge, Events Manager.

FBS SALES: The conclusion of the review of the Sales Unit's operation, and its potential to contribute to Society Funds, will, as stated previously in this report, be communicated to members.

FBS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: The new web site will have its contents updated as 'business as usual'.

A budget of £450 will be required to maintain the web site platform.

Steve Udall, IT Manager.

FBS FINANCE: All the Units' Operational Plans combine to form The Society's Operational Plan. The budget for these plans will depend on income. Currently, I have recommended to the Executive Supervisory Board that no increase in subscriptions will be required for the 2020 / 21 financial year. With no firm indications on income at this stage of planning, it has been assumed that income will be similar to that of 2019-20. Hence financially the plans are sound. However, the effect of Brexit, and other factors, may call for re-assessment as the year progresses.

Brian Jackson, Treasurer.