



SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 JANUARY 2019

INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRMP) THREE-YEAR PLAN CONSULTATION

REPORT OF STUART ERRINGTON, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Safer Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background to the Fire Authority's IRMP annual action plan. The Committee will be provided with a presentation setting out details of the plan and consultation process.

Background

2. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Fire and Rescue National Framework. The current Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, published in July 2012, sets out the government's priorities and expectations for Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA) in England.
3. Key priorities in the National Framework include the need to:
 - identify and assess all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect its community;
 - demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will be used to mitigate those risks;
 - reflect effective consultation with the community, its staff and partners work in partnership with their communities and a wide range of partners locally and nationally to deliver the service;
 - To be accountable to communities for the services provided.
4. The National Framework requires FRAs to publish an IRMP, reflecting up to date risk information and covering at least a 3-year period. County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority (CDDFRA) publish a 3-year plan and an annual action plan. As the current three-year IRMP runs until 2021 they are currently consulting on an annual action plan.

5. The action plan consultation document, agreed by the Authority in October 2018, is attached (Appendix 3) and sets out the current performance position of the Service along with the financial picture and, last year's consultation results.
6. The last section of the action plan sets out the suggested question set for the consultation. The question set consists of three specific question consulting on:
 - revised crewing arrangements at Bishop Auckland;
 - collaboration opportunities; and
 - three options on revised crewing options at Seaham, Newton Aycliffe, Spennymoor and Durham.

Consultation Approach

7. For the results of the consultation exercise to be as representative as possible, the data collection methodology has been expanded in order to encourage more responses.
8. The following methodologies have been applied:
 - Face to face briefings;
 - Open nights at the stations where there are planned changes;
 - Writing directly to key stakeholders;
 - Online and paper-based surveys;
 - Presentations.
9. The intention is to engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including:
 - Our staff;
 - Representative bodies;
 - The public;
 - Our partner agencies;
 - Members of parliament; Local councillors;
 - Parish councils;
 - Residents associations;
 - Area Action Partnerships;
 - Community groups;
 - Neighbouring fire and rescue services.
10. Appropriate announcements were made when consultation commenced via a media release and appropriate posts to the Service's social media feeds and website. Key partners such as the County Council and Durham Constabulary have also publicised the consultation exercise.
11. The consultation was carried out from 12th November 2018 and runs until 04th February 2019. The outcomes of the consultation will be reported to the Authority on 22nd February 2019.

Recommendations

12. Members are requested to

- (i) Consider and note the content of the IRMP action plan and consultation which will be presented at the meeting.

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Implications:

Finance – The IRMP document states that the Fire Service are required to make £0.448million of savings in 2019/20.

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – Outcomes from this report and presentation will raise Members awareness of the Fire Authority's consultation on its Integrated Risk Management Plan Action Plan.

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None