

Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee



9th January 2020

INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRMP) THREE YEAR 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 Framework sets out priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities who must have regard to the Framework in carrying out their duties.
3. The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework document places a responsibility on all fire and rescue authorities to produce and consult on their IRMP. These documents direct fire and rescue authorities to:
 - be accountable to communities for the service they provide;
 - identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their areas face;
 - make appropriate provision for fire prevention and protection activities and the response to fire and rescue related incidents;
 - develop and maintain a workforce that is professional, resilient, skilled, flexible and diverse;
 - collaborate with emergency services and other local and national partners to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the service they provide.
4. Specifically, the National Framework states that we have a **statutory responsibility** to include a number of areas within the IRMP. These duties are summarised below:
 - Reflect up-to-date risk analyses of all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the area of the authority;

- Demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to prevent fires and other incidents and mitigate the impact of identified risks on its communities;
 - Outline required service delivery outcomes including the allocation of resources for the mitigation of risks;
 - Set out its management strategy and risk-based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (RRO) 2005;
 - Cover at least a three-year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as is necessary;
 - Reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners; and
 - Be easily accessible and publicly available.
5. The Service's IRMP is a three-year strategic plan. This is reviewed annually to assess the effectiveness of existing arrangements. Following this review an annual IRMP Action Plan is developed.

IRMP CONTENT

6. The IRMP contains profile information regarding the Service area, performance data governance arrangements and how the Service identifies, manages and responds to risk in County Durham and Darlington.
7. Linking directly to the Community Risk Profile and District Profiles, the IRMP sets out the key risks found and what proactive and reactive measures will be in place relating to each identified risk.
8. Each of the 6 Strategies (Community Safety; Business Fire Safety and Fire Investigation; Emergency Response; Assets and Assurance; Workforce Development; Collaboration) and the MTFP is directly referenced with regard to how they are affected by risk.
9. A series of commitments made within the IRMP to the communities in each area of the Service:
- To be the best FRS in the UK;
 - Reduce risks to vulnerable people by offering a mutual pathway with partner agencies;
 - Ensure that at least 80% of Safe and Well-being Visit (SWVs) are targeted to vulnerable people and those at greatest risk will be revisited within 12 months;
 - Identify and engage with local businesses to ensure appropriate fire safety measures are in place;
 - Track performance using mix of performance indicators and set against localised targets;
 - Strive for excellence in everything we do by encouraging staff to be innovative;
 - Provide additional scrutiny in a range of areas, using members as champions in those areas;

- Act on Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection findings;
- Provide an overview of risk so we can plan resources effectively;
- Be proactive to prevent adverse events happening;
- Be fully prepared to respond to events in order to mitigate impact;
- Demonstrate how our activities address risk;
- Allocate resources to each risk in order to provide the best possible service;
- Continually review the way staff are deployed;
- Regularly review equipment to ensure firefighters have the most effective tools to do their job;
- Consult with the people we serve.

10. The Service has a series of proposals to consider over the next 3 years:

In 2020/21, the following options would be considered:

- Implementing day crewing on a permanent basis at (Newton Aycliffe) and (Seaham);
- Implementing the 4&2 model at (Durham) on a permanent basis if the trial proves successful;
- Implement the change to wholetime/Retained Duty System (RDS) duty systems at Spennymoor if the trial proves successful;
- Introduce a charging system for certain businesses when we attend multiple unwanted fire signals to their premises if the trial proves successful;
- Review the crewing arrangements at Crook and Barnard Castle and trial the opportunity of introducing Targeted Response Vehicles (TRVs) to these stations;
- Carry out a further review of the structure at middle and strategic manager levels to take account of any opportunities that collaboration may present for further efficiencies;
- Undertake a further review of the governance arrangements for the Fire Authority;
- Implement any changes suggested through the collaboration projects undertaken with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) and Northumberland FRS.

In 2021/22, the following options would be considered:

- Implementing the outcomes of the review of the crewing arrangements at our two appliance RDS stations and introduce TRVs if the trial proves successful;
- Introduce a trial of riding with four at some single pump wholetime stations;
- Implement an amended structure at middle and strategic level if the review provides appropriate opportunities;
- Implement any changes suggested through the governance review;
- Implement any changes suggested through the collaboration projects undertaken with Tyne and Wear FRS and Northumberland FRS.

In 2022/23, the following options would be considered:

- Implement the changes of riding with four at some single pump wholetime stations if the trial proves successful;
- Implement any changes suggested through the collaboration projects undertaken with Tyne and Wear FRS and Northumberland FRS.

CONSULTATION

11. The consultation on the 2020/21 proposals will begin on 13th December 2019 and will run for 12 weeks until 6th March 2020. In order to ensure that a wide range of views can be gathered the Communications Team will lead on disseminating a consultation document containing the specific questions regarding the future plans of the Service.
12. This will include making the IRMP available on the FRS website; organising community events to discuss the plan with the public; liaising with politicians and other local community leaders to disseminate the consultation document and using social media to promote it. There will be an online survey that people can complete.

Consultation Questions

13. The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) considered and approved the following questions to be put to the public:
 - a) Do you have any comments or suggested amendments to our three-year Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) document?
 - b) Following our trial, do you support our proposal to implement the day crewing arrangements at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe on a permanent basis from April 2020?
 - c) Following our trial, do you support our proposal to implement the crewing arrangements at Durham and Spennymoor on a permanent basis from April 2020?
 - d) We have maintained our response standards based on our historical approach to responding to incidents. Do you support our approach to maintain these standards or do you think we should carry out a review?
 - e) Given the increase in arson that we have experienced over the last few years do you support our intention to reallocate some resources into arson reduction initiatives?
 - f) Do you support our approach to continue to focus our safe and wellbeing visits on those people who are at greatest risk from fire?
 - g) Following our trial, do you support our proposal to introduce a charging system for certain businesses when we attend multiple unwanted fire signals to their premises?

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.

Appendix 3

Integrated Risk Management Plan

Appendix 4

IRMP Consultation Document

Appendix 5

IRMP Consultation Question and Answer Booklet

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