



COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

17 MARCH 2020

INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRMP) CONSULTATION 2019-2020 INTERIM RESULTS

REPORT OF POLICY SUPPORT OFFICER

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide Members with information regarding the results of the IRMP Consultation which ended on 6 March 2020.

BACKGROUND

2. 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.
3. The Service's three-year IRMP has been out to consultation from 13 December 2019 to 6 March 2020.

PROMOTION

4. In order to ensure that a wide range of views can be gathered a Consultation explanatory document and question and answer booklet were printed and circulated along with a link to an online survey. Online copies of these documents, together with the IRMP itself were made available and promoted on the Service website throughout the consultation.
5. The information regarding the Consultation and survey was sent to a range of partner organisations in sectors including Councils, Police, Health, Voluntary and Community, Education, Business, Faith and Housing. Colleagues shared the information to encourage participation.
6. Leaflets were printed highlighting the Consultation and advertising a series of events at the most affected stations (Durham, Newton Aycliffe, Seaham, Spennymoor, and Peterlee). These were delivered by crews from those stations to people receiving Safe and Well-being visits and left in community venues and local shops.

7. The Consultation was presented at various community meetings including at AAPs, and AAP Co-ordinators promoted the survey link to their contacts and on their Facebook pages where possible. Parish Council meetings, residents' groups, and partner meetings were also attended.
8. The consultation was promoted extensively on social media. Since 13th December we have posted about the IRMP Consultation 19 times on Facebook with an average reach of almost 5,000 people per post. On Twitter our tweets over the period averaged over 2,500 impressions per tweet.

RESULTS

Number of responses: 185

9. **Question 1** - Do you have any comments or suggested amendments to our three-year Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) document?
10. Most respondents did not comment but where the mandatory free text box was completed in detail the following issues were raised:
 - Crewing arrangements were questioned by 13 respondents including that a second wholetime pump should be returned to Durham; previous arrangements at Spennymoor should be reinstated and Day Crewing Plus should be returned in Seaham and Newton Aycliffe.
 - Funding cuts by government were criticised by 5 respondents and worries expressed that this has adversely affected the Service.
 - 3 people raised that the structure of the Service Leadership Team may not require 2 Assistant Chiefs and could be cut back to make savings.
 - Riding fire appliances with 4 should not be considered.
 - An increase in rural resources should be considered.
11. Other individual comments:
 - Community rooms in stations are not being used to the detriment of community relations
 - Could ambulance and fire services be integrated as in France?
 - Tactical Response Vehicles should not be used.
12. **Question 2** - 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?

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 61% |
| No | 39% |
13. **Question 3** - Following our trial, do you support our proposal to implement the crewing arrangements at Durham and Spennymoor on a permanent basis from April 2020?

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 60% |
| No | 40% |

14. **Question 4** - 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?

Maintain 47%
Review 53%

15. **Question 5** - 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?

Yes 79%
No 21%

16. **Question 6** - Do you support our approach to continue to focus our safe and wellbeing visits on those people who are at greatest risk from fire?

Yes 92%
No 8%

17. **Question 7** - 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?

Yes 91%
No 9%

RECOMMENDATIONS

18. Members are requested to:

- (a) **consider** the survey results as part of their decision on allocation Service resources
- (b) **note** the survey outcomes

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