

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

13 November 2014

Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2015/16 to 2017/18 Consultation



Report of Stuart Errington, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Safer Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background to the Fire Authority's IRMP consultation for 2015/16 – 2017/18. The Committee will be provided with a presentation setting out details of the consultation and key issues for the Fire Authority going forward.

Background

2. The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework for England (published in July 2012 by the Department of Communities and local Government) places a statutory responsibility on all Fire and Rescue Authorities to produce an IRMP.
3. The IRMP must be publicly available (currently on the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service website, attached at Appendix 2) and cover at least a three year timescale. The Framework requires that an IRMP must also:
 - Be regularly reviewed and reflect up to date risk information and evaluation of the outcomes of delivering our service;
 - Identify and assess all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the community;
 - Have regard to existing analyses of risk to communities completed by partners such as Local and Regional Resilience Forums;
 - Reflect effective consultation during its development and at all review stages with representatives of all sections of the community and those who have a stake in the local area;
 - Demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will be best used to reduce the impact of risk on communities in a cost effective way;
 - Provide details of how Fire and Rescue Authorities deliver their objectives and meet the needs of communities through working with partners.
4. The IRMP will be equality impact assessed to ensure County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service's activities and proposals satisfy the requirements of equality legislation.

5. The Fire Authority has a statutory duty to consult on the contents of its IRMP. The views of all relevant stakeholders will be considered by the Authority before it finalises the IRMP for the three year period. .
6. The consultation on the IRMP will include Area Action Partnerships, Parish and Town Councils, Service Personnel and Social Media as in previous years. The Authority is also holding a number of specific consultation events in the areas most impacted by the potential changes.
7. The consultation period commenced on 28 July and ends on 01 December 2014.

The 2015/16 – 2017/18 IRMP

8. The format and content of the IRMP reflects the requirements of the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework and is focused on the public as the main recipient of the information it contains. This IRMP consultation covers the Authority's second phase of Service Transformation.
9. The IRMP will set out how the Authority will implement a number of cost saving measures whilst minimising the impact on the local communities, including:
 - Sharing fire stations with our partners;
 - Responding to specific medical emergencies with trained firefighters in support of the North East Ambulance Service;
 - Changing the crewing arrangements for the Aerial Ladder Platform at Darlington;
 - Reviewing the number of emergency response fire officers we employ;
 - Reviewing the staffing model at Spennymoor Fire Station.

FUTURE IRMP's

10. In addition to setting out the options covering the period 2015/16 – 2017/18 the Authority will also publish an annual action plan providing details of the individual options being taken forward each year throughout the three year period.

Recommendations

11. Members are requested to
 - (i) Consider and note the content of the IRMP consultation for 2015/16 – 2017/18 which will be presented at the meeting.
 - (ii) Provide feedback on the IRMP for 2015/16 – 2017/18.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

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.

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None