

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5 January 2016

Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Action Plan 2016/17 Consultation



Report of Stuart Errington, Chief Fire Officer, County Durham and Darlington Fire and 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 Action Plan consultation for 2016/17. 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. Following an extensive consultation programme the Authority approved the 3 Year Strategic Plan in February 2015 which covers the period 2015/16 – 2017/18 and incorporates the Authority's IRMP.
6. Although there is no requirement to consult on the full IRMP every year, the Authority must publish and consult on an annual IRMP action plan. The consultation document, attached as Appendix 2, is the basis of our consultation with staff, stakeholders and the public on the proposals we intend to progress in 2016/17 to ensure we continue to provide the appropriate level of service to our communities based on risk.
7. 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.
8. The consultation period commenced on 16 November and concludes on 08 February 2016.

The 2015/16 – 2017/18 IRMP

9. The consultation document seeks the views on our proposals for change by posing the following five questions:

Q1 Strategic review of fire control

Do you support our intention to review how we provide our fire control and 999 call handling function including exploring collaboration opportunities with other partner agencies to improve efficiency?

Q2 Extending the role of firefighters to assist public health services

The role of a firefighter could potentially include activities supporting the wider public health agenda, such as undertaking health prevention work. Do you support our proposal to participate in research and trials to test the viability of such initiatives?

Q3 Expanding the emergency medical response (EMR) scheme

Last year firefighters in Teesdale and Weardale were trained to respond to specific medical emergencies in support of North East Ambulance Service (NEAS). Do you agree that, providing the costs do not negatively affect our medium term financial plan, we should explore options to extend this trial to other areas of County Durham and Darlington in partnership with NEAS?

Q4 Further collaboration – support services, estates and fire stations

CDDFRS already works collaboratively with partner organisations in the provision of information and services across many areas of work. Do you support our intention to explore further collaboration opportunities in the areas of estates management, use of fire stations, administration and office functions?

Q5 Extending the Young Firefighters Association (YFA) / Fire Cadets schemes

Youth engagement schemes currently operate out of five fire stations across the service. These have successfully improved resilience; strengthened community ties and helped the service to fulfil its role as a provider and supporter of education and training for young people. Do you agree with our proposal to invest in extending such schemes to other fire stations?

Recommendations

10. Members are requested to
 - (i) Consider and note the content of the IRMP Action Plan consultation for 2016/17 which will be presented at the meeting.
 - (ii) Provide feedback on the IRMP Action Plan for 2016/17.

Contact: Keith Lazzari, Performance and Information Systems Manager
County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority
Tel: 0191 375 5580 **E-mail:** klazzari@ddfire.gov.uk

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 Action Plan.

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None