

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 January 2018

Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Three-Year Plan Consultation



Report of Stuart Errington, 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 three-year plan. The Committee will be provided with a presentation setting out details of the three-year plan and consultation.

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.
5. The new IRMP 3-year plan document agreed by the Authority in October 2017 is attached (Appendix 2) and sets out the current position of the service along with key achievements, performance information and forthcoming risks and challenges.
6. The last section of the new IRMP three-year plan (Appendix 2) sets out the suggested question set for the consultation. The question set consists of six questions aimed at gauging public perceptions and levels of support rather than consulting on specific issues.

7. It is anticipated that next year's consultation document will be around more specific issues.

Consultation approach

8. 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.
9. With this in mind, consultation has been carried out as part of the Safe & Wellbeing visits for the first time. This will ensure feedback is encouraged from a good cross section of the communities we serve.
10. As well as this we have consulted using the below:
- Face to face briefings;
 - Writing directly to key stakeholders;
 - Online and paper-based surveys;
 - Presentations.
11. 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.
12. Appropriate service announcements were made when consultation commenced via a media release and appropriate posts to the service's social media feeds and website.
13. The consultation was carried out from 23rd October 2017 and runs until 15th January 2018. The outcomes of the consultation will be reported to the Authority on 8th February 2018.

Recommendations

9. Members are requested to:
- (i) Consider and note the content of the IRMP three-year plan and consultation which will be presented at the meeting.

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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 Action Plan.

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None