

**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Item No**

**MEETING: 3 NOVEMBER 2008**

---

**SUBJECT: INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT 2008/2009 ACTION PLAN –  
SECOND QUARTERLY UPDATE**

---

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY AND  
FINANCE OFFICER**

---

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update for Members in respect of the implementation of the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Annual Action Plan for 2008/2009, which was approved by the Authority in March 2008 (Minute No. 137/2008 refers).

**2 BACKGROUND**

2.1 Fire Service Circular 7/2003 provided Fire and Rescue Authorities with the guidance required to produce a medium-term IRMP that would be focused on improving community safety through the more effective and efficient use of fire and rescue service resources.

2.2 This process effectively formed the basis of a new approach to risk management through the introduction of a more sophisticated means of identifying and evaluating a broad range of risks, subsequently developing strategies to deal with the risks and directing resources to support the introduction of them.

2.3 An integral part of the overall IRMP planning process is the requirement to produce an Annual Action Plan to support the main IRMP strategic plan. In line with this expectation, and following an extensive consultation exercise, the Fire and Rescue Authority approved its IRMP Annual Action Plan for 2008/2009 in March 2008.

**3 DELIVERY OF THE INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

3.1 Within the 2008/2009 annual plan a total of seven specific improvement actions were identified. For ease of reference and monitoring these proposed actions were incorporated into an appendix to the main IRMP document.

3.2 Work is well underway with regard to the implementation of these seven improvement actions and this report provides Members with an update on the progress as set out below:

- Monitoring of the effect on operational services of 4 x 4 crewing levels on all two pump community fire stations is continuing. This involves the monitoring of attendance times and other key performance indicators including injury statistics. To date there have been no issues of concern identified.

- Partnerships have been developed in Newcastle and North Tyneside districts, resulting in Carbon Monoxide detectors being fitted in the homes of those identified as being at potential risk. Leaflets containing safety advice about CO detectors are now issued to householders as part of the Home Fire Safety Check procedure.
  - A review of the service's existing water rescue and flood incident capability has been carried out and the key findings implemented. A further post-incident review is also being carried out following the emergency response to the flooding events that occurred within the North East region in September of this year and in which this service played a key role. The Initial work of the review team has already identified a requirement for additional equipment.
  - The draft Road Traffic Collision (RTC) Policy is currently being consulted upon with stakeholders. Stations in North Tyneside and South Tyneside districts have piloted the delivery of road safety training to those members of the community deemed as being at high risk from involvement in RTC incidents.
  - Construction work on the Command and Control Training Facility commenced on 4 August 2008 and is due to be completed the end of December 2008. All of the programmes for the delivery of bronze, silver and gold training courses in the Command and Control Training Facility are currently in development.
  - Progress continues to be made on the identification of heritage buildings deemed to be at potential risk from fire. Data is currently being analysed in order to prioritise our response to incidents in heritage buildings.
  - Work continues with local authorities with the intention of introducing protocols in respect of automatic fire alarms and unwanted fire signals in dwellings. Performance Indicators are showing that this work is having a positive impact.
- 3.3 In supporting these improvement actions and in all aspects of the work undertaken by everyone in the service, the Authority is fully committed to ensuring that suitable, high quality training and development continues to be provided, making sure that we take advantage of all new developments in the marketplace.

#### 4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The financial implications arising from the implementation of the IRMP Annual Action Plan 2008/2009 have been fully taken into account in the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 4.2 Detailed financial monitoring continues to be undertaken in order to ensure that efficiency savings and spending on the proposed areas of reinvestment accord with the overall strategy set out in the Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan and Strategic Plan.

4.3 It is also worth re-iterating that the IRMP continues to generate efficiency savings for the Authority which has allowed reinvestment into the service without the need to raise overall spending levels. The efficiencies are incorporated into the Annual Efficiency Statement that is provided to the Department Communities and Local Government (CLG).

## **5 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There is a potential risk of delays in the completion of the planned actions. However, progress against all of the above improvement actions is continually reviewed to determine any factors which may result in delays and any necessary adjustments to work schedules are then made following approval by the responsible senior officer.

## **6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Equality and Diversity implications have been considered as part of the Equality Impact Assessment process for the IRMP and associated action plans.

## **7 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Health and Safety implications have been considered in the formulation of the IRMP and associated action plans.

## **8 CONCLUSION**

8.1 The delivery of the 2008/2009 IRMP Annual Action Plan is progressing well with all of the actions aimed at improving the service provided to the public being carried forward.

8.2 This is being achieved whilst also ensuring that efficiencies are being realised that assist the Authority to meet the targets set by central government.

8.3 Close monitoring of the financial and operational implications of the IRMP will continue into the future in order to ensure that the benefits set out in the plan continue to be fully realised.

## **9 RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 The Authority is requested to:

- Endorse the progress made in relation to the implementation of the 2008/2009 IRMP action plan.
- Receive further reports as appropriate.

---

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The under mentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- Integrated Risk Management Annual Action Plan 2008/2009

***Creating the Safest Community***