

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING: 16th FEBRUARY 2015

SUBJECT: RESPONSE REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION: PHASE 1 MONITORING

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report provides an update for Members on the implementation to date of the Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) Review of Operational Response.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The IRMP process is the vehicle the Service uses to make significant changes to its shape, ensuring that functions are planned, designed, and delivered in a way that balances available resources and community risk. This is a national process required under the Fire and Rescue National Framework.

2.2 Since 2010, our IRMP actions have been developed against a background of significant reductions in the budget available to the Authority as a result of changes in Government spending.

2.3 In January 2014 (Min 57 of 2014), following a detailed consultation period, the Authority chose to implement option 3 of the IRMP review of Operational Response. This option provides revenue saving of £5,449,689.

2.4 In March 2014 (Min 78 of 2014), Members approved a high level plan which phased the implementation of this review over a 4 year period.

2.5 The Authority requested reports detailing any impact of the implementation, alongside reports on the financial situation the Service faces. To this end, a detailed monitoring process has been designed which covers the specific actions taken in order to capture any impact on the service provided to the community.

2.6 The actions implemented in this monitoring period were:

- Removal of one pumping appliance from Wallsend Community Fire Station (CFS) on the 1st July 2014
- Removal of one pumping appliance from Swalwell CFS on the 3rd July 2014.

3 MONITORING PROCESS

3.1 The monitoring process for the implementation of the IRMP Review of Operational Response uses analysis of performance data and feedback from crews to identify any impact of the actions taken. The key indicators which have been included in the monitoring process at this stage are:

- Speed of response of first appliance (all incidents)
- Speed of response of second appliance if one was deployed (all incidents)
- Speed of response of first appliance to Risk category 1 and 2 (higher risk) incidents
- Speed of response of first appliance to Risk category 3 and 4 (lower risk) incidents
- Operational assurance- recorded performance issues in affected geographical areas
- Firefighter safety- recorded operational H&S incidents and near misses in affected geographical areas

3.2 Monitoring has taken place at the whole service (across Tyne and Wear) level, and also at the level of the geographical areas affected by the removal of appliances.

3.3 This report highlights performance for the first six months of the implementation plan (July to December 2014) comparing this period with the same period in previous years.

3.4 Between July and December 2014 the Service attended 7,489 incidents. 264 of these were in Wallsend CFS' area and 295 were in Swalwell CFS' area. It must be acknowledged that at this stage this is a small data set.

4 WHOLE SERVICE IMPACT

Speed of response

4.1 Across Tyne and Wear, the average attendance time of the first appliance has decreased by 4 seconds when compared to the same period in the previous year. The average attendance time for the first appliance at risk level one incidents has reduced by 7 seconds.

4.2 The average attendance time of the second appliance has increased by 7 seconds in comparison to the same period in the previous year.

Operational performance and firefighter safety

4.3 There are no issues to report regarding operational performance, operational firefighter injuries or near misses in Wallsend CFS' area, Swalwell CFS' area, or across Service area during the monitoring period. No Health and Safety issues have been raised which relate to the implementation of this review.



5 WALLSEND CFS AREA IMPACT

- 5.1 The average attendance time for the first appliance in attendance has decreased by 21 seconds when compared to the same period in the previous year.
- 5.2 Of the 264 incidents in the Wallsend area, 57 were classified as risk level one. The average attendance time for the first appliance at these incidents has decreased by 5 seconds.
- 5.3 The average attendance time for the second appliance attending an incident in the Wallsend area has increased by 32 seconds when compared to the previous year. For risk level one incidents this increase was 51 seconds.

6 SWALWELL CFS AREA IMPACT

- 6.1 The average attendance time for the first appliance in the Swalwell area has decreased by 23 seconds in comparison the previous year.
- 6.2 Of the 295 incidents in the Swalwell area, 62 were risk level one. The average attendance time for these incidents has decreased by 18 seconds.
- 6.3 The average attendance time of the second appliance has increased by 2 minutes 2 seconds when compared to the previous year. For risk level one incidents, this increase has been an average of 1 minute 47 seconds.
- 6.4 This performance (an average of 9 minutes 14 seconds for the second pump attending incidents), is similar to the levels of performance achieved by the Service's existing one pump fire stations (the highest being 9 minutes 33 seconds in Rainton Bridge CFS' area), and is in line with the expectations and planning assumptions of the review.

7 OUTSTANDING PHASE 1 ACTIONS

- 7.1 In order to complete phase 1 of the approved high level implementation plan, two pumping appliances will be stood down for up to 12 hours at night. In addition to this Targeted Response Vehicles (TRVs) will also be introduced into the Service's frontline fleet.
- 7.2 Following detailed discussions and negotiations with the Fire Brigades Union it has been possible to agree a flexible approach to implementing these actions which will complete phase 1 of the plan, a pilot is now in place to stand down the two appliances.
- 7.3 From January 2015 two pumping appliances have been stood down from 2400 hrs to 0900 hrs each day. This is being done on a rotational basis, with one pump from the north of the Service area, and one pump from the south of the Service area being stood down simultaneously.
- 7.4 The Service will begin to take delivery of TRVs in early 2015. Thorough testing of the vehicles and training of operational crews will then take place, allowing TRVs to be

introduced into the fleet before the end of phase 1 of the plan.

8 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 Community risk has been fully considered in reviewing our operational response, and discussion of this formed a significant proportion of the review report discussed by Authority in October 2013 and January 2014.
- 8.2 Implementation of the Response Review means significant change for the service and a number of the key risks on the corporate risk register apply, in particular:
- 11/02 Risk that further budget cuts will mean that we have to make decisions that will affect the delivery of front line services.
 - 08/28 Failure to effectively and safely deploy and manage operational staff and resources at incidents leading to staff and public being exposed to unnecessary risks
 - 11/01 Risk that we do not realise the savings proposed in our IRMP resulting in reduced financial resilience and potential impact on service delivery.
- 8.3 Clearly we have not been able to mitigate risk 11/02, since our budget has been cut to the extent where the frontline service is affected, despite the Authority's efforts to lobby for smaller and more proportionate reductions in our budget.
- 8.4 Mitigating risk 08/28 is a priority of the implementation process. If the Authority is minded to continue with the high level plan, further reports will be prepared on the monitoring of impact as any phase of the change is implemented.
- 8.5 This is in line with the approach taken when the Authority introduced riding 4 and 4, where reports were brought to Authority monitoring the impact on risk and safety.

9 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no further financial implications in addition to the January 2014 report on the IRMP Review of the Operational Response Model.

10 **HR IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 Detailed negotiations will continue with the FBU to implement all phases of the high level plan, specifically around the terms and conditions, work location and duties of affected staff.

11 **EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report.

12 **HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

13 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1 The Authority is recommended to:

- a) Note the monitoring update on actions taken to date.
- b) Receive further reports as appropriate.

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and Rescue Authority**
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