

**MEETING: 21 SEPTEMBER 2009**

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**SUBJECT: DRAFT INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2010 TO MARCH 2011**

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

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**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the proposed content of the Authority's draft Integrated Risk Management Annual Action Plan for the period April 2010 to March 2011 and to seek approval for the draft IRMP Action Plan to be subject to the statutory public consultation period of twelve weeks.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members will be aware that a new three year Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) was published by the Authority in April 2009. Key to this Plan are the four key IRMP objectives which have been established and linked to the Authority's Strategic Goals to provide a framework for action. These objectives, briefly, are:

- **Objective 1:** Continue to reduce the number and severity of preventable fires and other emergencies and their impact on the community we serve.
- **Objective 2:** Ensure we have an appropriate, trained, competent workforce representative of the community we serve and who are capable of performing the challenging role of a high performing Fire and Rescue Service.
- **Objective 3:** Protect the environment.
- **Objective 4:** Work in partnership with key stakeholders to prevent the incidence of fire and other emergencies to make strong, safe and prosperous communities.

- 2.2 These objectives are used as a comprehensive structure within which the development of annual action plans take place. The annual action plans support the achievement of the IRMP objectives.

- 2.3 To formulate the draft 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan a workshop was attended by the Strategic Management Team where performance and risk data was critically reviewed in order to identify improvement areas in terms of efficiency and the delivery of all services.
- 2.4 Further consideration was given to guidance issued by CLG and recommendations from the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008/11.

### 3 PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR 2010/11

- 3.1 As a result of this analysis four new actions are proposed for the 2010/11 Action Plan, as set out below:
- **Low activity stations.** It is proposed that we explore a low activity staffing model, currently being used by a small number of fire and rescue services, with regard to whether there are benefits to be gained from the introduction of such a change at low activity stations, such as Sunderland South Community Fire Station.
  - **Fire Appliance.** Preliminary investigations have identified that the retained fire appliance, call sign T1.3P2, based at Birtley Community Fire Station is an under-utilised resource. In the light of this we propose a full examination of the value or otherwise of maintaining this vehicle.
  - **Risk Prevention Work and Resources.** Whilst TWFRAs has achieved significant reductions in primary fires, community fire safety expenditure appears to be relatively high compared to other services (based upon 2007/2008 figures). A full review of how resources are used is therefore proposed aimed at identifying any efficiency savings from Community Safety through smarter working, improved targeting, increased partnership work and greater use of risk data.
  - **Back Office Functions.** Following benchmarking activity in 2009/10, it is proposed that a review of the efficiency of back-office functions is carried out in order to ascertain the extent to which improvements and efficiencies could be introduced.

### 4 CHANGES TO THE FORMAT OF THE IRMP

- 4.1 During the SMT workshop the proposal to include the IRMP and its Action Plans within the Authority's Strategic Community Safety Plan was discussed. It was felt that merging the two strategic documents would give a single statement of strategic direction and would still conform to all national guidance on IRMP.

- 4.2 It is felt that this would enhance clarity and also reduce staffing and production costs.
- 4.3 Accordingly Members are requested to consider this proposal and they will have a further opportunity to discuss this matter and the action points above at the seminar which will follow on from the Authority meeting.

## **5 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 In accordance with information contained with national IRMP guidance and, following approval by the Authority, the draft 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan will be subject to public consultation.
- 5.2 In particular, the opportunity will be provided for formal consultation meetings between the relevant representative bodies, senior management and Members in order to ensure that their views and comments are considered.
- 5.3 Members will recall that previous IRMP consultation exercises have had disappointing returns. Therefore this year we are going to explore some new areas of consultation including seeking the views of our partners, particularly via Local Strategic Partnerships.
- 5.4 We will continue with the consultation processes used in the past, including seeking the views of the following:
- MPs and Ward Councillors.
  - Business organisations.
  - Local Authorities and public agencies.
  - Our partners.
  - Other emergency services.
  - Citizens.
- 5.5 The consultation exercise will hopefully enable the Authority to collect and collate a wide range of opinions all of which will be considered by the Authority in approving the 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan.
- 5.6 It is proposed that the consultation exercise will commence on 28 September 2009, following approval of the draft 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan by the Authority,
- 5.7 and will conclude on 21 December 2009.

**6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The financial implications arising from the implementation of the draft 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan are currently being finalised therefore only provisional figures have been built into the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy, reported elsewhere on this Agenda. It is also worth re-iterating that the IRMP has, and will continue to, generate efficiency savings for the Authority that have allowed reinvestment into service provision. These efficiencies are incorporated into the Annual Efficiency Statement that is provided for CLG.

**7 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 As with all new initiatives, there are risks involved in implementation. To control this, risk assessments will be undertaken to ensure that the risks to the Authority have been minimised as far as practicable.
- 7.2 Should the action points finally be agreed there will also be a risk of delays in the completion of the planned actions. Target dates will be established and monitored to determine any factors which may result in delays and appropriate adjustments to dates will be made following approval by the relevant Officer.

**8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Equality and Diversity implications have been considered as part of the Equality Impact Assessment process for the draft 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan.

**9 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Health and Safety implications have been considered in the development of the draft 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan.

**10 LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Legislative implications have been considered in the development of the draft 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan.

**11 LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Learning and Development implications have been considered in the development of the draft 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan.

**12 CONCLUSION**

- 12.1 The draft 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan represents the continuing commitment of the Authority to providing an efficient and cost effective fire and rescue service which will meet the expectations of Government and local risk needs. The further development of the Integrated Risk Management process is essential if

the resources of the Authority are to be effectively deployed to tackle those at greatest risk from fire and other emergencies.

### **13 RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1 The Authority is requested to:

- i. Consider the contents draft 2010/11 Action Plan and provide comments and views in respect of any amendments considered necessary.
- ii. Subject to (i) above agree that the draft 2010/11 Action Plan is subject to public consultation, as detailed in this report.
- iii. Approve the proposal to include the IRMP and Action Plan within the Authority's Strategic Community Safety Plan.
- iv. Agree that the Chief Fire Officer reports the results of the consultation exercise to the Authority for consideration prior to final approval and implementation of the 2010/2011 IRMP and associated 2009/2010 Action Plan.

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

- Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
- Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008 – 2011