

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No

MEETING: 15 SEPTEMBER 2008

**SUBJECT: DRAFT INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PERIOD
APRIL 2009 TO MARCH 2012 AND THE ASSOCIATED 2009/10 ACTION PLAN**

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

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the production of the Authority's draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for the period April 2009 to March 2012 and the associated 2009/2010 Action Plan and to seek approval for the draft IRMP to be subject to the statutory public consultation period of twelve weeks.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will be aware that 2008/2009 is the final year of the Authority's current Integrated Risk Management Plan which has covered the period April 2004 to March 2009.
- 2.2 In consideration of this fact, in April 2008 a Steering Group consisting of officers of the Authority was established to commence work on the next IRMP. The group has met regularly over the past four months and has developed a draft 2009/2012 IRMP, using the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008/2011 and CLG guidance for reference. Benchmarking with other Fire and Rescue Authorities has also taken place to ensure all IRMP requirements have been met.
- 2.3 In essence, the draft 2009/2012 IRMP includes an update on the significant achievements that the 2004/2009 IRMP has delivered; what the current risks to the community are; and how it is planned to address these risks over the next three year period.
- 2.4 In addition, a context document, which exists as a separate document, has also been developed which gives additional information relating to both the Authority and the Tyne and Wear area. This document is available on the intranet along with other Authority strategic documents.

- 2.5 For the 2009/2012 period four key IRMP objectives have been established which are linked to the Authority's Strategic Goals and will provide a framework for action. The objectives are briefly outlined below for the information of Members:-
- **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.
- 2.6 These objectives will be used as a comprehensive structure within which the development of annual action plans can take place. In this regard the proposed Actions for the 2009/2010 Annual Action Plan are set out below for information and consideration of Members.

3 ACTIONS FOR 2009/2010

- **Introduction of a Community Engagement Team.** The team will comprise of two staff who will assist the Authority in developing a workforce that reflects its diversity, through promotion and recruitment activities with our communities.
- **Conduct a quality assurance audit of the Home Safety Check (HSC) process.** To achieve the strategic goal of reducing deaths and injuries from fires and other emergencies we must ensure that HSC are delivered in a way to address risk and it is the intention to complete a comprehensive review to ensure a consistent approach is applied.
- **Review our current working relationships with our local authorities.** In light of the significance of the developing LAA process and associated CAA audit framework, we intend to undertake a review of our partnership arrangements with local authorities with the intention of providing detailed guidance on our future strategic priorities.

- **Review of crewing levels on and location of Special Emergency Response Vehicles (ERV).** A critical assessment of the current primary crewing arrangements of the Emergency Tender and Special Rescue Tender will be undertaken. A separate review in respect of the optimum station location of all special ERVs will also be carried out.
- **Review equipment carried on, and the type of ERV.** A review of the equipment carried on our pumping appliances to ensure that they are appropriately equipped to address the risks that crews face when responding to emergencies will be conducted. A review of our ERV to ensure they are appropriate for the incidents that our crews respond to will also be carried out.
- **Development of the Personal Development Planning Process.** This will enable all staff to carry out and record individual performance reviews in accordance with the requirements of the National Framework 2008-2011. We will review and amend the current PDP process as necessary.
- **Design and implement further policies/systems to enable us to respond dynamically to risk.** Policies and systems will be developed to enable the service to provide dynamic solutions to support risk reduction.
- **Embed Operational Assurance across the Service.** To ensure we can respond effectively to operational demands we have established an Operational Assurance Team. The team will undertake an independent audit of operations and review all aspects of operational performance throughout the Service and the findings will be reported to the Authority.
- **Collect data to enable the measurement of the impact on the environment of fire and rescue service activities.** In order to plan how we can reduce our negative impact on the environment we will develop a system to enable the measurement of the impact on the environment of our fire and rescue activities.
- **Gain recognition for implementing an environmental management system.** To ensure that we are operating in a responsible, ethical and caring way in respect of the environment we intend to reduce our carbon footprint and seek recognition for implementing an environmental management system (BS8555).

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 In accordance with information contained within IRMP national guidance documents and, following approval by the Authority, the draft 2009/2012 IRMP and associated 2009/10 Action Plan will be subject to public consultation.

- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 In addition the consultation exercise will involve seeking the views of the following:
- MPs and Ward Councillors.
 - Business organisations.
 - Local Authorities and public agencies.
 - Other emergency services.
 - Citizens' panel.
- 4.4 The consultation exercise will enable the Authority to collect and collate a wide range of opinions all of which will be considered by the Authority in approving the 2009/2012 IRMP and associated 2009/10 Action Plan.
- 4.5 It is proposed that the consultation exercise will commence on 22 September 2008, following approval of the draft 2009/2012 IRMP and associated Action Plan by the Authority, and will conclude on 15 December 2008.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial implications arising from the implementation of the draft 2009/2012 IRMP and 2009/2010 Action Plan are currently being finalised and, therefore, only provisional figures have been built into the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy, reported elsewhere on this Agenda. It is also worth reiterating 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.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is a risk of delays in the completion of the planned actions. Target dates will be reviewed to determine any factors which may result in delays and appropriate adjustments to dates will be made following approval by the relevant Officer.

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Equality and Diversity implications have been considered as part of the Equality Impact Assessment process for draft 2009/2012 IRMP and the associated 2009/2010 Action Plan.

8 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Health and Safety implications have been considered in the development of draft 2009/2012 IRMP and the associated 2009/2010 Action Plan.

9 LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Legislative implications have been considered in the development of draft 2009/2012 IRMP and the associated 2009/2010 Action Plan.

10 LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Learning and Development implications have been considered in the development of draft 2009/2012 IRMP and the associated 2009/2010 Action Plan.

11 CONCLUSION

- 11.1 The draft 2009/2012 IRMP and the associated 2009/2010 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.

12 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 The Authority is requested to:
- i. Consider the contents of the draft 2009/2012 IRMP and associated 2009/2010 Action Plan and provide comments and views in respect of any amendments considered necessary.
 - ii. Subject to (i) above agree that the draft 2009/2012 IRMP and 2009/2010 Action Plan is subject to public consultation, as detailed in this report.
 - iii. 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 2009/2012 IRMP and associated 2009/2010 Action Plan.

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
- Draft 2009/2012 IRMP and 2009/10 Action Plan
- Draft TWFR Context Document