

MEETING: 21 JULY 2008

**SUBJECT: INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2008/09
FIRST QUARTELY UPDATE REPORT**

**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 (IRMP) Annual Action Plan for 2008/2009, approved by the Authority in March 2008. (Minute No. 122/2008 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 revised 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 Integrated Risk Management 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 plan a total of seven specific improvement actions were identified. For ease of reference and monitoring these proposed actions are incorporated into an appendix to the main IRMP document.

3.2 Further to the endorsement of the plan by the Authority work commenced in April 2008 with regard to the implementation of the approved improvement actions and this report provides Members with an update on the progress made in the first quarter of the year.

4 PROGRESS TO DATE

4.1 It is pleasing to report that all the improvement actions within the plan are progressing well. Work that has been undertaken is outlined below for consideration and comment by Members:

Creating the Safest Community

4.1.1 Monitoring of 4 x 4 Crewing levels

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 comprehensive monitoring of attendance times and other key performance indicators including accidental death and injury statistics. To date there have been no issues identified.

4.1.2 Carbon Monoxide Awareness

Carbon Monoxide (CO) awareness leaflets are currently being issued to occupiers during all Home Fire Risk Assessments (HFRA) where there is a CO risk. Agreement has been reached with partner organisations in Newcastle and Sunderland to fit CO detectors as part of our HFRA programme.

4.1.3 Review of Water Rescue Arrangements

A detailed and comprehensive review of the existing water rescue and flood incident capability has been carried out. Requirements for additional water rescue and flood response equipment have been identified and the necessary procurement arrangements have been implemented.

Swift water rescue training (first responder level) has been completed for personnel located at Swalwell Community Fire Station, which is where the High Volume Pumping equipment is located. Training for the strategic level management of water rescue incidents is scheduled to be delivered during the second quarter of 2008/2009. This will complement the existing water awareness training which has already been provided for all operational response staff and the specialist water rescue training provided for crews located at Fossway Community Fire Station, which is the location for the Service's main water rescue capability.

4.1.4 Implement Road Traffic Collision (RTC) Policy

Following a review of current legislation and in consultation with local partners a Road Traffic Collision Policy has been written and will be the subject of a future report to the Authority Policy Advisory Committee in the near future.

4.1.5 Training for Command and Control

Tenders have been received for the construction of a Command and Control Training Facility and a preferred bidder has been identified. The Estates Department are currently liaising with Sunderland City Council and the contractor with a view to agreeing a start date for construction. In addition, all of the programmes for the delivery of Bronze (operational), Silver (tactical) and Gold (strategic) level training courses in the Command and Control Training Facility have been identified and are currently being developed.

4.1.6 Thematic Inspection of Heritage Buildings

Contact has been made with English Heritage who have supplied a list of Grade I and II listed structures. The consultation process has commenced with internal & external stakeholders including local authorities in order to examine the

information provided. Those Heritage buildings that are occupied and have already been inspected are recorded within the Authority's Management Information Systems. This data is currently being evaluated and a priority list for inspection will be drawn up.

4.1.7 **Extend Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) and Unwanted Fire Signals in Dwellings Protocol to all Five Local Authority Areas**

Currently a successful initiative exists in the Newcastle Area in partnership with Your Homes Newcastle which has reduced unwanted fire signals by a combination of risk assessment, training and home fire risk assessments.

This has been extended to selected Gento accommodation in Sunderland the results of which will be evaluated before the initiative is extended.

5 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 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. The IRMP has generated efficiency savings for the Authority that have allowed reinvestment into service provision and these efficiencies have been incorporated into the Annual Efficiency Statement that is provided for Communities and Local Government (CLG).

6 **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 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.

7 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

8 **HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

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

9 **CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 This is being achieved whilst also ensuring that efficiencies are being realised that assists the Authority to meet the targets set by central government.

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

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The Authority is requested to:

- Note and endorse the progress made in relation to the implementation of the 2008/2009 IRMP action plan.
 - Receive further reports as appropriate.
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- Integrated Risk Management Annual Action Plan 2008/2009