

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No

MEETING: 15 June 2009

SUBJECT: INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT 2008/09 ACTION PLAN 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 2008/09, 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 medium-term planning process is the requirement to produce an annual IRMP Action Plan to support the main Integrated Risk Management 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 2008/09 in March 2008.

3 DELIVERY OF THE INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

3.1 Within the 2008/09 annual plan a total of seven specific improvement actions were identified. Further to the endorsement of the report by the Authority work has been undertaken with regard to the implementation of the improvement actions for 2008/09 and this report provides Members with a year end update in respect of the actions.

4 2008/09 UPDATE

4.1 A significant amount of work has been undertaken to implement the Annual Action Plan and the information overleaf outlines what has been achieved in respect of each of the seven improvement actions:

PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

- Monitoring of the effect on operational services of 4+4 crewing levels on all two pump stations is now complete. Over the years in question there have been no detrimental effects on health and safety or operational response formally registered. Consequently, formal monitoring of the initiative will now conclude.
 - In partnership with the Health and Safety Executive, who have formal responsibility for publicising the risks posed by Carbon Monoxide, awareness leaflets have been made available to the service and are distributed by fire service personnel during Home Safety Checks. In addition, two time-limited initiatives, one in Sunderland and one in Newcastle, have been implemented using external funding to install CO detectors in homes deemed to be at potential risk.
 - Equipment and associated training has been further enhanced in respect of responding to flooding incidents including training in strategic management of water incidents.
 - The Road Traffic Collision (RTC) Policy was approved by the Fire and Rescue Authority on 19 January 2009. A delivery strategy is currently being implemented. The strategy will require districts to deliver two RTC Reduction sessions per year to establishments within their districts, targeting young people aged 17-25. The programme will also be delivered to groups currently engaged with by Prevention and Education such the Phoenix and Princes Trust programmes.
 - All building work has been completed on the new Command and Control Training Facility and the delivery of bronze, silver and gold training courses commenced on 20 March 2009. This will enable the service to be better prepared for major incidents through enhanced training, including working jointly with partner emergency responders.
 - An inspection framework has been developed for buildings deemed to be a special heritage risk and those buildings identified as such have been inspected. This has generated a range of information for operational front-line staff in respect of firefighting tactics and salvage plans associated with these buildings. This information is to be made available through the MODAS system.
 - Following a successful trial an initiative with local authorities has just been introduced which aims to reduce the amount of time wasted on automatic false alarms at business and commercial premises and public buildings. The impact of this initiative will be monitored through the performance management system.
- 4.2 Overall, sound progress has been made in respect of all seven action points contained within the 2008/09 IRMP Annual Action Plan. Of those actions which will continue to develop into the future, for example swift water rescue, specific departments have been allocated the responsibility for monitoring progress within their existing annual action plans.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial implications arising from the implementation of the IRMP Annual Action Plan 2008/09 have been fully taken into account in the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy. 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 and is incorporated into the Annual Efficiency Statement that is provided for Communities and Local Government (CLG).

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The delivery of the 2008/09 IRMP Annual Action Plan has progressed well with all of the actions contributing to an overall improvement in the service delivered to the public whilst also ensuring that efficiencies were realised that assisted the Authority to meet the targets set by central government and reduced the pressure on the precept increase each year.
- 6.2 The ongoing work associated with the initiatives will now be monitored through the performance management framework operating within the service.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Members are requested to:
- Consider and approve the contents of the report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- Integrated Risk Management Plan Progress Report, 21 July 2008
- Integrated Risk Management Plan Progress Report, 03 November 2008
- Integrated Risk Management Plan Progress Report, 23 February 2009