

MEETING: 28th March 2011

SUBJECT: INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN 2010/11 – END OF YEAR 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 Members with an end of year update in respect of the implementation of the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) actions for 2010/11, approved by the Authority in March 2010. (Minute No. 93/2010 refers).
- 1.2 Members are reminded that the Authority amalgamated the IRMP with the Strategic Community Safety Plan (SCSP) to produce a single, three year plan for the Authority.

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 SCSP including IRMP actions for 2010/11 in March 2010.

3 DELIVERY OF THE INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 3.1 Within the SCSP 2010/11 there were four specific IRMP actions. Each of these was designed as a service review, with the intention of bringing reports to members on the outcome of each review so that decisions could be made. These reviews have been carried out in an evidence based way with the involvement of service teams, and consultation has also been carried out with the public and partners as appropriate.
- 3.2 This report provides Members with progress against these actions.

4 SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

4.1 A significant amount of work has been undertaken in respect of the four IRMP actions and an outline of this work is set out below for consideration and comment by Members.

- **Evaluation of the Retained Category 2 Appliance (Gateshead South CFS).** This review is complete and findings were presented to Members on 22nd November 2010. It was agreed that based on the review evidence, the retained appliance should be removed from operational service, subject to a period of public consultation. The consultation was completed and Members agreed on 28th February 2011 that the appliance should be removed from the operational fleet. The final implementation of this action will be on 31st March 2011.
- **Examine Low Activity Staffing Model.** Following a detailed review including examination of community risk and the operation of low activity staffing models in other FRA's the review recommended the implementation of the model at two of our less busy fire stations- Gateshead South and Sunderland South. This timescale is to enable necessary staff consultation and building works relating to the implementation of the approach. This review was presented to and agreed by Members on 24th January 2011, with final implementation planned for 2014.
- **Review of Prevention and Education (Community Safety).** This review is complete and Members approved a revised structure and staffing model for Community Safety on 20th December 2010. The majority of the changes have been implemented, with only a small number of posts to follow in 2011/12.
- **Review of back office functions.** It was planned to review all back office functions over a two year period 2010/11 and 2011/12; however this programme has been condensed to take account of additional financial pressures under the Spending Review. Reviews of the Human Resources, Data and Information and Administration and Support Services are complete, and the revised timescale for the completion of all reviews is April 2011. As with the other IRMP reviews, findings will be presented to Authority for a decision as to the future shape of support services. The projected timescale for this is July/August 2011. It is planned to implement these reviews from April 2012 onward.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The financial implications arising from the implementation of the IRMP actions has been fully taken into account in the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy. The efficiencies realised through reviews already reported to Authority are summarised below:

| Review | Reductions | Reductions realised |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Retained appliance | £72,000 | From April 2011 |
| Low Activity Staffing model | c£800,000 | From 2014 |
| Prevention and Education (Community Safety) | £625,735 | From April 2011 |
| Back Office reviews | To be determined once review complete | From 2012 |

5.2 It should be noted that whilst in previous years efficiencies realised through IRMP and reported through Annual Efficiency Statements could be reinvested to some degree in service improvements, the Spending Review has meant that these savings are now being used to help balance the Authority's revenue budget.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

6.1 A risk assessment has been undertaken to ensure that the risk to the Authority has been minimised as far as practicable. The assessment has considered an appropriate balance between risk and control; the realisation of efficiencies; the most appropriate use of limited resources; and a comprehensive evaluation of the benefits.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 A significant amount of energy has been invested in conducting evidence based reviews to deliver clear outcomes for the 2010/11 IRMP. All timescales set for the completion of the reviews have been met, including the setting of a more ambitious target for back office reviews.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Authority is requested to:

- Endorse the progress made in relation to the implementation of the 2010/11 IRMP actions that are included in the Strategic Community Safety Plan.
- Receive further reports as appropriate

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- Strategic Community Safety Plan 2010 – 2013

