

**MEETING: 19 July 2010**

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**SUBJECT: INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT 2010/11 ACTION PLAN –  
QUARTER 1 UPDATE**

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

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**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) 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 concise 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 are four specific IRMP actions Further to the endorsement of the report by the Authority work has commenced with regard to the implementation of the improvement actions for 2010/11 and this report provides Members with progress against these actions.

## 4 PROGRESS TO DATE

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).** Information is currently being collated from the public IRMP consultation, previous performance/statistics and the functional costs relating to the retained appliance at Station 13 (Gateshead South CFS). This will be consolidated and a report prepared and presented to the Senior Management Team and subsequently to Members in the Autumn.
- **Examine Low Activity Staffing Model.** The project scope and plan has been agreed. Different staffing models (including Low Level Activity and Risk (LLAR)) that are in use by other fire and rescue services (FRS) are being reviewed. Visits to other FRS to gain an insight into the introduction and impact of different models are planned for July 2010. Additionally, information is currently being collated on the costs associated with the existing model, together with incident and risk data for the station area.
- **Review of Community Safety.** All work undertaken by Community Safety has been collated identifying essential and non-essential core activities. The management structure has also been reviewed. Proposals for a staffing model which will provide a refined community safety function are currently being developed.
- **Back Office Function Review.** A review of three back office functions is currently being undertaken, these are Human Resources, Data and Information and Administration and Support Services. The review is looking to see what improvements and efficiencies can be made. The service is making use of business process improvement techniques in carrying out the review, making use of expertise provided to authorities free of charge by the North East Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP). The findings from this review will be reported in the Autumn. A review of the ICT department will commence in September and its findings are scheduled to be reported in April 2011.

4.2 Detailed monitoring of the financial implications of these IRMP actions will be undertaken in order to ensure that efficiency savings and any spending on proposed areas of reinvestment accord with the overall strategy set out in the Authority's Strategic Community Safety Plan.

## 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. 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).

- 5.2 The increased resources are made available for achieving the vision of 'Creating the Safest Community'.

## **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.
- 6.2 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 SCSP.
  - Receive further reports upon the completion of the outstanding actions.

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

- Strategic Community Safety Plan 2010 – 2013

