

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF : **CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY**
DATE : **21 SEPTEMBER 2016**
REPORT OF : **CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**
AUTHOR : **MATTHEW MAGUIRE**

SUBJECT: **DRAFT INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT
PLAN 2017-18 (IRMP 14)**

Purpose of Report

1. This report sets out the key proposals contained within the 2017-18 draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), including projects that will be implemented over the next four years, as part of the Authority's second Emergency Response Review. The report also gives details about the 12 week consultation, to allow the public, staff and stakeholders the opportunity to comment on and shape the proposals.

Recommended: That

- [1] Subject to Members' comments, the Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2017-18 (IRMP14) be approved for formal internal and external consultation.

Background

2. The Fire Authority has a legal duty to prepare and publish an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), setting out the key risks and issues faced by the community and outlining the plans that the Authority intends to pursue and implement in the coming year.
3. In 2015, the Fire Authority approved a five year strategy, 'Planning for a Safer Cheshire', which set out an overarching vision to realise financial savings, while continuing to develop the organisation, expand prevention activities and make changes to emergency response services. The Authority also committed to publishing an annual action plan, or IRMP, each year to ensure proposals and projects remained fit for purpose and relevant. The draft plan that has been circulated covers the financial period 2017-18.
4. Four years ago a comprehensive review of emergency services was carried out and following a major consultation, work began on implementing the programme. This included building new fire stations at Alsager, Penketh, Powey Lane and at Lymm and making changes to crewing systems at a number of other stations.

5. Once the new stations are open, the majority of this first programme will have been implemented and generated just under £4m in savings. Other significant savings include around £2m from Value for Money reserves and the organisational review.
6. In the Five Year Strategy, the Authority committed to undertaking a second emergency response review, to consider all aspects of the Service's frontline emergency response resources. The review has been completed and this new Plan includes a number of proposals which, if approved, will be implemented over the next few years.
7. The Plan also outlines a range of new and ongoing projects, as well as the detailed risk analysis and planning processes which have been carried out to ensure current and future projects continue to meet the Authority's objectives and future financial challenges.

Key issues

8. There are a number of issues and proposals outlined in the Plan which are summarised under the following key headings:
 - Developing the organisation
 - Protecting local communities, and
 - Responding to emergencies

Developing the organisation

- **Blue light collaboration** - completing preparations for phase one of the programme with Cheshire Constabulary, undertaking co-location and transfer of staff in affected departments moving to Clemonds Hey and confirming arrangements to maintain the Service's identity and governance
- **Diversity and Inclusion** - implementing any resultant action plans to respond to the findings of the reaccreditation process for the national Fire and Rescue Service Equality Framework
- **Independent assessments** - piloting any new approach to support the re-launched national Fire Service Inspectorate, including thematic inspections of bespoke areas
- **Fire reform programme** – putting in place necessary processes and frameworks to respond to and support the Government's Fire Reform Programme, including supporting a national research and development hub and a procurement hub
- **Increasing transparency** – redevelop the Service's website to ensure up-to-date performance and other information is available and more easily accessible
- **Apprenticeships** – continue to deliver the initial two-year firefighter apprentice scheme and recruit a second cohort in 2017/18
- **Supporting staff** - Implement the actions arising from the 2015/16 Staff Satisfaction Survey Action Plan

Protecting local communities

- **Safe and Well** – roll out the Authority’s programme of 40,000 Safe and Well, visits, delivered in partnership with health agencies, to those aged over 65
- **Targeting and referrals** – continue to refine the Service’s targeting methodology and work with partners to ensure those most at risk are prioritised for Safe and Well visits and home safety assessments
- **Safety Central** – Continue to develop community safety programmes at the Authority’s flagship community safety facility at Lymm, focussed on children and young people and those with caring responsibilities
- **Cadets** – build a second school in Nepal through the partnership with Cheshire Fire Cadets and Classrooms in the Clouds
- **False alarms** – launch a new policy for responding to automatic and false alarms
- **Sprinklers** – work with local partners and the Government to ensure that requirements for the installation of sprinklers in schools remain in place and are actively promoted
- **Primary Authority Scheme** – continue to engage with relevant sectors to explore opportunities to partner under the Primary Authority Scheme for fire safety inspections

Responding to emergencies

- **Emergency Response Programme** – over the next four years, implement the outcomes of the Emergency Response Review according to the timeline, reviewing progress each year through subsequent IRMPs
- **Cardiac Response Scheme** – look to expand and roll out the programme of pilots undertaken with the North West Ambulance Service at four fire stations, where firefighters are mobilised to cardiac arrest incidents
- **Training facilities and stations** – consider options to redevelop the operational training facilities at the Authority’s training centre in Winsford and explore opportunities to redevelop the existing fire station at Chester
- **Emergency services communications** – continue to support and participate in the national programme to renew communications technology for the three emergency services

Consultation

9. Given that the proposals in the Plan are far-reaching and will cover a number of years, it is proposed to continue the Authority’s tried and tested approach of undertaking comprehensive consultation to ensure that the community, staff and stakeholders are able to contribute their views and shape plans. This approach also enables the organisation to

promote key safety messages and raise general awareness of the Service.

10. The formal 12-week consultation will run from 3 October 2016 until Tuesday 3 January 2017. As in previous years, a series of consultation roadshows will take place across all unitary council areas during the 12-week period. Details and locations will be published on the Service's website as soon as arrangements are confirmed.
11. There will also be extensive use made of the website and the Service's social media channels, to encourage online feedback. Key external partners will be contacted directly and encouraged to give their views, while staff consultation will include briefings, roadshows and extensive use of the Service's intranet.
12. Due to the scope of the proposals in the Plan, the Authority will once again be using the Consultation Institute to accredit the consultation approach and process. The Institute worked with the Authority to develop the major consultation undertaken in 2012 as part of the first Emergency Response Review.
13. Emerging issues from the consultation will be presented to Members at their Planning Day in November and again in January. A formal report on the outcomes of the consultation will be presented to the Authority in February 2017.

Financial Implications

14. The consultation and communication costs associated with the development of the action plan for 2016-17 will be met from existing departmental budgets. The assumptions in the Medium Term Financial Plan, around annual increases in the Authority's Council Tax precept of 1.99%, will feature as part of the consultation.

Legal Implications

15. Publication of the IRMP 2017/18 by 31st March 2017 will fulfil the Authority's statutory responsibility.

Equality and Diversity Implications

16. The consultation plan has been developed to maximise opportunities for the Authority to involve and engage with all of Cheshire's communities – particularly those from vulnerable minority and hard to reach communities.
17. The consultation plan incorporates issues highlighted by the full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken to support the communications and community engagement strategies.

Environmental Implications

18. No environmental implications have been identified.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE