

# CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

**MEETING OF:** FIRE AUTHORITY  
**DATE:** 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017  
**REPORT OF:** CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
**AUTHOR:** GRAEME WORRALL

---

**SUBJECT:** DRAFT INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT  
PLAN 2018-19 (IRMP 15)

---

## Purpose of Report

1. This report sets out the key proposals contained within the 2018-19 draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). It also provides details on the 12 week public 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 draft Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2018-19 (IRMP15) 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 IRMP15 covers the financial period 2018-19.
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 fire stations.

5. Taken together over the last four years, the operational changes highlighted above and a series of value for money reviews of support functions have achieved savings of £7.7m. While the recently agreed financial settlement from the Government provides certainty around funding, there remains a requirement to make a further £4m revenue savings by 2020/21.
6. In 'Planning for a Safer Cheshire 2015-20', the Authority committed to undertaking a second emergency response review, to consider all aspects of the Service's frontline emergency response resources. The second emergency response review was the subject of consultation in the 2017/18 draft IRMP. Following this consultation, Members agreed to review a number of duty systems (as detailed in paragraph 8 below) as well as developing further proposals for 2018/19.
7. The proposals are outlined in the draft IRMP for 2018/19 (copies have been distributed with the agenda). The draft IRMP 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.

Note: Proposals concerned with the crewing arrangements at Crewe and Ellesmere Port Fire Stations will be considered by Members separately and do not feature in the draft IRMP for 2018/19.

## Key issues

8. There are a number of issues and proposals outlined in the Plan which are summarised below:

### Draft IRMP 2018/19 Proposals

- **Macclesfield Aerial Appliance** – review the provision of the aerial appliance currently based at Macclesfield Fire Station.
- **Reviewing Duty Systems** – review the current duty system at Penketh Fire Station and review the suitability and sustainability of the existing duty system at Wilmslow Fire Station.
- **Emergency Medical Response** – roll-out the cardiac response pilot, undertaken in conjunction with North West Ambulance Service, to all fire stations across Cheshire.
- **Protection Review** – review the department to ensure it is able to respond to emerging demands following the Grenfell Tower fire.
- **Sprinkler Campaign** – provide additional funding to promote the adoption of sprinkler systems by local housing providers.
- **Sadler Road Training Centre** – commence building the operational training centre at the Authority's Sadler Road site.
- **Station Build Programme** – develop options for new, replacement fire stations at Chester, Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Warrington.

- **Property Enhancement Programme** – undertake a programme of improvements/enhancements to improve and modernise existing fire stations and Authority houses as required.
- **Service Transformation** – deliver against the Service Transformation plan to reflect the requirements of the fire reform agenda and to deliver the action plan arising from the 2017 staff engagement survey.
- **Blue Light Collaboration** - conclude the collaboration project with Cheshire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire to provide a joint corporate services function and joint HQ for both organisations.
- **Public Service Reform** – continue to contribute to the Cheshire and Warrington Public Services Reform Strategy.
- **Precept** – proposing to increase the Authority’s Council Tax precept by 1.99%.

## Consultation

9. 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 2 October 2017 until Tuesday 2 January 2018. As in previous years, a series of consultation roadshows will take place across all unitary council areas during the consultation 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. Emerging issues and interim findings from the consultation will be presented to Members in December. A formal report on the outcomes of the consultation will be presented to the Authority in February 2018 when it determines the final IRMP 2018/19.

## Financial Implications

13. The consultation and communication costs associated with the development of the action plan for 2018-19 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**

14. Publication of the IRMP 2018/19 by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 will fulfil the Authority's statutory responsibility.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

15. 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.
16. The consultation plan incorporates issues highlighted by the full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken to support the communications and community engagement strategies.

## **Environmental Implications**

17. No environmental implications have been identified.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE**