

# CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

**MEETING OF:** CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY  
**DATE:** 19 SEPTEMBER 2018  
**REPORT OF:** CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
**AUTHOR:** GRAEME WORRALL

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**SUBJECT:** DRAFT INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT  
PLAN 2019-2020 (IRMP 16)

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## Purpose of Report

1. This report sets out the key information and proposals contained within the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2019-2020 (IRMP). The report also gives details about the consultation process, which will allow the public, staff and stakeholders to comment on and help shape future planning.

## Recommended: That

- [1] Subject to Members' feedback and comments, the Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2019-2020 (IRMP16) attached as Appendix 1 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. The Authority's Five Year Strategy '*Planning For A Safer Cheshire*' outlines the strategic direction of the Authority between 2015 and 2020. To supplement this IRMPs (including this draft IRMP) have served as annual action plans to provide information on proposals and projects for specific years throughout this period.
4. This draft IRMP takes into account requirements of the updated Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, which was published in May 2018.

## Information

5. There are a number of issues and proposals covered in the draft IRMP which are summarised below:
6. The draft IRMP contains updated information regarding the risks facing the Authority and how services are delivered across emergency

response, prevention and protection functions to mitigate these. Details are also provided in relation to the risk-based approach to undertaking enforcement action under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and how the Authority engages with other partners via the local resilience forum.

7. The document provides details of the Authority's funding arrangements, the outlook for future funding and provides links to both the Medium Term Financial Plan and Statement of Accounts.
8. Furthermore, the draft IRMP provides information on the Authority's major capital programmes including the development of the Sadler Road training centre; the replacement fire station at Chester and the programme of modernisation planned for the Authority's wider estate portfolio.
9. Specific projects outlined within the draft IRMP which are proposed to take place during 2019/2020 include a programme of work to improve the on-call duty system, the undertaking of a staff engagement survey and progressing the proposal to create a joint fire and police facility on the site of Crewe Fire Station.
10. The draft IRMP also provides some indicative timescales regarding the development of a Whole Service Review, the outcomes of which may be subject to public consultation as part of future integrated risk management planning.

## **Consultation**

11. 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.
12. It is proposed to run a 13-week consultation from 1 October 2018 until Friday 4 January 2019, to take into account bank holidays around the Christmas period. As in previous years, a series of consultation roadshows will take place across all four unitary areas. Details of these events will be published on the Service's website once arrangements are confirmed.
13. Underpinning the consultation process is an electronic survey, which will be used to gauge views on a number of subjects and help to inform future planning regarding the delivery of services to the community. There will also be extensive use made of the website and the Service's social media channels, to encourage online feedback.
14. The approach to staff consultation has been revised to encourage more face-to-face dialogue, with visits to individual watches and teams being undertaken by all members of the Service Management Team

throughout the consultation period. This will be supported by online content available on the Service's intranet, including an online survey.

15. Key external partners will be contacted directly and encouraged to provide any comments. In addition, contact will be made with a range of community networks to encourage responses from under-represented groups.
16. Emerging issues and interim findings from the consultation will be presented to Members at the Fire Authority meeting on 12 December 2018. A formal report on the outcomes of the consultation will be presented to the Authority at its meeting on 13 February 2019.

### **Financial Implications**

17. The consultation and communication costs associated with the development of the IRMP for 2019-2020 will be met from existing departmental budgets. The assumptions in the Medium Term Financial Plan around an annual increase in the Authority's Council Tax precept of 2.99% will feature as part of the consultation.

### **Legal Implications**

18. Publication of the IRMP 2019/2020 by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 will fulfil the Authority's statutory responsibility.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

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

### **Environmental Implications**

21. Materials to support the consultation will be printed on recycled material where possible. Promotional products will be procured from suppliers using ethically sourced materials.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE  
Appendix 1 - Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2019-2020 (IRMP16)**