

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE: 10TH DECEMBER 2019
REPORT OF: CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
AUTHOR: GRAEME WORRALL

SUBJECT: DRAFT INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT
PLAN 2020-2024

Purpose of Report

1. This report sets out the key information and proposals contained within the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-2024. 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:

- [1] That, subject to Members' feedback, the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2020-2024 be approved for formal internal and external consultation.

Background

2. The Fire Authority is required to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), setting out the key risks and issues faced by the community and outlining how the Authority plans to mitigate those risks.
3. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England contains a number of requirements that an IRMP must satisfy. The draft IRMP 2020-2024 has been developed with these requirements in mind.

Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan

4. The draft IRMP provides an overview of Cheshire by unitary authority and outlines how Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service is structured. This includes an overview of each department and a map showing the provision of emergency response across Cheshire.
5. The draft IRMP then details the key fire-related risks within the community, which are categorised in three broad themes of protection, prevention and response. There is also information within each risk description of how services are currently provided in order to address the particular issue. Specific proposals relating to these risks are then outlined.

6. The document also explains how the Whole Service Review and Community Risk Management Model have been used to develop the suite of proposals contained within the IRMP.
7. Further details are provided regarding the key emergency response proposals: replacing the aerial appliance at Macclesfield Fire Station with a High Reach Extending Turret vehicle; relocating one of the fire engines at Ellesmere Port Fire Station; introducing a day crewing duty system at Wilmslow Fire Station; and enhancing response to road traffic collisions.
8. Information is provided on the wider work of the Authority in relation to: collaboration with partner agencies; responding to the inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services; and in looking after its staff.
9. Furthermore, the draft IRMP provides information on the Authority's funding arrangements and budget management tools such as the Medium Term Financial Plan and priority based budgeting process.
10. Major capital commitments up to 2024 are also outlined. This includes the new operational training centre and the replacement fire stations at Chester and Crewe, as well as the programme of modernisation planned for the Authority's wider estate portfolio.

Consultation

11. It is proposed to continue the Authority's tried and tested approach of undertaking comprehensive consultation to ensure that the public, staff and stakeholders are able to contribute their views and help to 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 16 December 2019 until 20 March 2020, 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. This will also be supported by consulting with residents at a range of other events across Cheshire, such as community group meetings.
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 planned throughout the consultation period. This will be supported by online content available on the Service's intranet, including a 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. Initial feedback from the consultation will be reported to Members at the Fire Authority meeting on 12 February 2020. A formal report on the outcomes of the consultation will be presented to the Authority at its meeting on 22 April 2020.

Financial Implications

17. The consultation and communication costs associated with the development of the IRMP for 2020-2024 will be met from existing departmental budgets.

Legal Implications

18. Publication of the IRMP 2020-2024 will fulfil the Authority's statutory responsibility.

Equality and Diversity Implications

19. The consultation process will aim 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.

Environmental Implications

20. Printed 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 – Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-2024