

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE: 12TH FEBRUARY 2020
REPORT OF: CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
AUTHOR: GRAEME WORRALL

SUBJECT: DRAFT INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT
PLAN 2020-2024 CONSULTATION UPDATE

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with an update about progress with the consultation concerned with the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2020-2024.

Recommended: that Members

[1] note the report.

Background

2. At the previous meeting of the Authority in December 2019, Members approved the draft IRMP and the consultation was launched on Monday 16th December 2019. It will conclude on Friday 20th March 2020.
3. As with previous consultations, the process has three distinct strands focusing on public consultation, consulting with staff and consulting with local partners. Progress against each of these is outlined in the following paragraphs.

Public Consultation

4. The programme of public roadshows commenced on 15th January, with five events having been held across Cheshire. Further events are planned for the remainder of the consultation period.
5. Contact is being made with the Service's cadet units and Prince's Trust Teams. Consultation information will be sent to colleges throughout Cheshire to facilitate the feedback from young people.
6. Information on the consultation is featured prominently on the homepage of the www.cheshirefire.gov.uk website along with the link to an online survey. This is supported by regular posts on social media, with a Facebook advertisement campaign scheduled to commence on 10th February.
7. 103 survey responses have been received to-date, primarily from residents in Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester due to the scheduling of public engagement events held so far.

Staff Consultation

8. The first of four staff conferences has been held and views gathered from those attending. In addition, a conference for managers across the Service is scheduled to take place on 4th February.
9. A programme of visits is now underway which involves senior managers visiting all teams to discuss the draft IRMP and gather feedback. This activity is supported by information accessible on the homepage of the Service's intranet and an online survey is also available.
10. At the time of writing, 36 survey responses had been received from members of staff.

Partner Consultation

11. Copies of the draft IRMP have been circulated to Cheshire Members of Parliament, unitary authorities and councillors, as well as town and parish councils across Cheshire. Individual briefings are scheduled with key stakeholders. Neighbouring fire and rescue services and key public sector partner agencies have also been provided with a copy of the draft IRMP and encouraged to provide feedback.
12. Consultation documents have also been circulated to voluntary action bodies and community/faith groups across Cheshire to encourage feedback and distribute information to their respective memberships.

Interim Feedback

13. The following paragraphs provide an overview of the initial feedback received at the time of writing.
14. Overall, 96% of public respondents valued Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service as a local service provider and 86% indicated their overall satisfaction with the performance of the service.
15. 87% of public respondents and 81% of staff agreed with the proposal to extend the scope of the Safe and Well programme. Regarding the development of a strategic road safety plan, key emerging themes include focusing on road speeds, repairing potholes and considerate parking. Some feedback from staff has highlighted the importance of focusing on young drivers and the use of mobile phones while driving.
16. Some comments received from the public concerning the review of the Service's risk based inspection programme include focusing on checking fire doors, escape routes and suggestions to make fire safety information more accessible. Feedback from staff has focused on the need to ensure adequate training and ensuring the Service has greater input into the planning process.

17. 66% of public respondents and 55% of staff agreed with the proposal to replace the fire engine and aerial appliance at Macclesfield with a high reach fire appliance.
18. 42% of public respondents agreed with the proposal to relocate the second fire engine at Ellesmere Port Fire Station to Powey Lane Fire Station. A further 24% stated they neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposal, while 24% stated they did not know. 36% of staff responses agreed with the proposal, 39% disagreed and 18% neither agreed nor disagreed.
19. 68% of public and staff responses received to date indicated support for the proposal to introduce a day crewing duty system at Wilmslow Fire Station.
20. 88% of public and 68% of staff responses stated their support for the proposed introduction of Rapid Response Rescue Units at primary on-call stations across Cheshire. Feedback from staff has centred on the practical and procedural considerations of how these resources may be used.
21. 82% of public respondents and 70% of staff indicated their support for the overall package of proposals as laid out in the draft IRMP.

Consultation Institute

22. The Consultation Institute is a nationally recognised organisation that promotes best practice within the consultation sector. It has been contracted to provide an independent quality assurance assessment against the consultation process. Initial meetings have been held and the Institute has made some suggestions to enhance the consultation process, which are being actioned. A mid-point review with the institute is planned for Monday 17th February.

Financial Implications

23. None.

Legal Implications

24. None.

Equality and Diversity Implications

25. None.

Environmental Implications

26. None

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE