

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE: 7 OCTOBER 2020
REPORT OF: CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
AUTHOR: GRAEME WORRALL

SUBJECT: INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN
2020-24 – REVIEW AND CONSULTATION

Purpose of Report

1. To describe the intended approach to the review of the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-24 and potential consultation activity.

Recommended: That Members note;

- [1] The proposed approach to the review of the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-24 and;
- [2] The potential consultation concerned with the council tax precept 2021-22.

Background

2. Following an extensive consultation process, which was subject to independent assessment, Members approved the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-24 (IRMP 2020-24) at its meeting on 1 July 2020. The IRMP 2020-24 outlines the Authority's key plans up to 2024, with projects for 2020-2021 now in progress. Planning for 2021-2022 projects is also now underway. Members will find an extract from the IRMP 2020-24, the 'Summary of our plans', at Appendix 1 to this report.
3. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (the Framework) sets out the requirements for integrated risk management plans. It states that: 'Each plan must:
 - reflect up to date risk analyses including an assessment of all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the area of the authority;
 - demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to prevent fires and other incidents and mitigate the impact of identified risks on its communities, through authorities working either individually or collectively, in a way that makes best use of available resources;
 - outline required service delivery outcomes including the allocation of resources for the mitigation of risks;

- set out its management strategy and risk-based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in accordance with the principles of better regulation set out in the Statutory Code of Compliance for Regulators, and the Enforcement Concordat;
- cover at least a three-year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as it is necessary to ensure that the authority is able to deliver the requirements set out in this Framework;
- reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners; and
- be easily accessible and publicly available.

Information

Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-24 Review

4. The IRMP 2020-24 complies with the requirements of the Framework. However, as time passes it may be necessary to update aspects of the document. Accordingly, an annual review will consider compliance with the Framework.
5. A review may lead to the IRMP 2020-24 being updated/supplemented. As the IRMP 2020-24 was only agreed in July 2020 officers do not believe that a review needs to take place until 2021-22. Accordingly, there will be no requirement to consult about the IRMP 2020-24 this year. The first review of IRMP 2020-24 will be presented to Members in the second half of 2021, with a view to a formal report being considered by Members towards the end of 2021.
6. As time passes there is a greater likelihood that the IRMP 2020-24 will need to be updated/supplemented and that consultation may be necessary.

Council Tax Precept Consultation

7. The Authority is required to carry out some consultation on its proposed level of precept. Normally this has formed part of a broader integrated risk management plan consultation. As the intention is not to consult on the IRMP 2020-24, this year, it makes sense to be prepared to undertake a separate consultation concerned only with the precept.
8. With the current uncertainties over funding and the timing of the government finance settlement it is not clear when a consultation on the precept will take place and how long it will be possible to run the consultation. However, clearly the results of the consultation would need to be available to Members in good time for their February 'budget setting' meeting.

Financial Implications

9. The annual cost of consultation is circa £6k. There will be a small saving by not conducting an integrated risk management plan consultation for 2021-22.

Legal Implications

10. The IRMP 2020-24, approved in July 2020, was produced having regard to the requirements in the National Framework.
11. A consultation on the level of precept would satisfy the Authority's obligations regarding its budget setting for 2021-2022.

Equality and Diversity Implications

12. Consultation on the level of precept will aim to provide an opportunity for a range of diverse groups across the community to take part.

Environmental Implications

13. To minimise environmental impacts, it is proposed that the precept consultation is conducted primarily through online methods.

**CONTACT: DONNA LINTON, GOVERNANCE AND CORPORATE PLANNING
MANAGER
TEL [01606] 868804**