

Safest People, Safest Places

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

24 NOVEMBER 2016

INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION 2017-2018

REPORT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to brief members on the format and content of the consultation document for the 2017-2018 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). The report also seeks approval for the consultation questions and the approach to consultation.

Background

2. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Fire and Rescue National Framework. The current Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, published in July 2012, sets out the government's priorities and expectations for Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA) in England.
3. Key priorities in the National Framework include the need to:
 - identify and assess all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect its community;
 - demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will be used to mitigate those risks;
 - reflect effective consultation with the community, its staff and partners work in partnership with their communities and a wide range of partners locally and nationally to deliver the service;
 - To be accountable to communities for the services provided.
4. The National Framework requires FRAs to publish an IRMP, reflecting up to date risk information and covering at least a 3 year period.
5. Following an extensive consultation programme the Authority approved the 3 Year Strategic Plan in February 2015 which covers the period 2015/16 – 2017/18 and incorporates the Authority's IRMP.
6. Although there is no requirement to consult on the full IRMP every year, the Authority must publish and consult on an annual IRMP action plan. The consultation document, attached as Appendix A, is the basis of our consultation with staff, stakeholders and the public on the proposals we intend to progress in 2017/18 to ensure we continue to provide the appropriate level of service to our communities based on risk.

Format and content of the Consultation Document

7. The consultation document provides some background information about the role of the Service and its current performance. It also describes in some detail the proposals that the Authority would like to progress in 2017/18.
8. Each of the proposals covered in the document have been developed as part of the Service Transformation programme and discussed with members at the planning day on 12 October 2016.
9. The consultation document seeks the views on our proposals for change by posing the following three questions:

Q1 Emergency Medical Response (EMR)

Based on the outcomes of the EMR trial should we continue this work with North East Ambulance Service provided it supports our core fire and rescue service priorities?

Q2 Further Collaboration with Health Services

Would you support us exploring further collaboration with health services in the future?

Q3 Sharing High Handenhold Fire Station with Durham Police

Do you agree that we should share High Handenhold Fire Station with Durham Police?

Consultation approach

10. Although the consultation process will be based upon the approach taken last year; as the document is only a one year action plan rather than the 3 Year Strategic Plan, the level of consultation will be set at a more appropriate level utilising a number of communication methods including:
 - Face to face briefings;
 - Writing directly to key stakeholders;
 - Online and paper-based surveys;
 - Presentations.
11. The intention is to engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including:
 - Our staff;
 - Representative bodies;
 - The public;
 - Our partner agencies;
 - Members of parliament; Local councillors;
 - Parish councils;
 - Residents associations;
 - Area Action Partnerships;
 - Community groups;
 - Neighbouring fire and rescue services.

12. Appropriate media announcements via newspapers and radio will be made when consultation commences.
13. The face to face staff briefings commenced with the managers seminars held the 07 and 19 September 2016, with the wider stakeholder consultation planned to begin from 28 November 2016 until 20 February 2017. The outcomes of the consultation will be reported to the Authority on 21 March 2017.

Recommendations

14. Members are requested to :
 - a. **discuss** and **agree** the content as set out at Appendix A.
 - b. **agree** the consultation questions.
 - c. **agree** the approach to consultation as set out in the report.