



## COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

21 MARCH 2017

### 2017/18 INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN - ANNUAL ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

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#### REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

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#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update members with details of the 2017/18 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) annual action plan consultation feedback.

#### BACKGROUND

2. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Fire and Rescue National Framework. The Framework sets out priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities who must have regard to the Framework in carrying out their duties.
3. The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework document places a responsibility on all fire and rescue authorities to produce and consult on their Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which in this Service is incorporated into the Three Year Strategic Plan. These documents direct fire and rescue authorities to:
  - Identify and assess the full range of fire and rescue related risks our area faces, make provision for prevention and protection activities and to respond to incidents appropriately;
  - Work in partnership with our community to deliver our Service; and
  - Be accountable to communities for the service we provide.
4. The Authority must have in place and maintain an IRMP which reflects local needs and sets out how existing and foreseeable risks will be tackled in local communities. The Strategic Plan is reviewed annually to assess the effectiveness of existing arrangements and following this an annual IRMP action plan is developed.
5. The action plan consulted on this year was the third and final one of the current Three Year Strategic Plan which will be reviewed and refreshed prior to the 2018/19 IRMP consultation.

#### PROPOSALS CONSULTED ON FOR 2017/18

6. The consultation was designed to establish the views of our stakeholders on three proposals focussing on collaboration with partner agencies which will improve community safety, increase operational effectiveness and also provide income generation; all of which form an element of the strategic direction for the Authority. The proposals, if implemented, will contribute to the Service meeting the future funding challenges without increasing the risk to communities. The consultation concluded on 20 February 2017.

7. The consultation plan considered:

- Who would be directly affected by the policy/service or decision?
- What relevant groups had an interest in the policy/service or decision?
- How the above groups were consulted
- How we would make information available to those consulted
- The accessibility of the information to all groups
- Any potential barriers to effective consultation with each of the identified groups.

8. Various methods of communication have been used in the consultation process and these included:

- An on-line survey with links from the Service website, North East Ambulance Service, Durham Constabulary, Age UK Darlington and Durham;
- Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council intranet sites;
- Darlington Together magazine;
- Messages about the survey and links to it from Twitter and Facebook via the Service accounts as well as the partner organisations (listed above);
- Direct email giving information about the consultation and links to the survey to the following groups: The Alzheimer's Society, local religious leaders, Stonewall and Gay Advice Durham and Darlington;
- Presentations to various strategic groups of Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council including Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- Presentation to Darlington Association of Parish Councils;
- Information circulated to Darlington PACT meetings;
- Presentations at Resident Association meetings;
- Media releases to all local channels and publications;
- Presentations to 14 Area Action Partnership meetings;
- Briefings to all CDDFRS staff. Information also included in several staff bulletins;
- Information to neighbouring fire and rescue services.

## CONSULTATION RESULTS

9. 295 completed surveys were received and details of the responses are set out in Appendix A. The consultation results will be published on the Authority's website and made available in hard copy format if requested. Although the number of responses received is slightly higher than the previous two years IRMP consultations (273 and 284 respectively) responses are low particularly when considering the extensive consultation plan. This could be due to a number of factors such as public apathy towards public sector consultations, or the fact that many of those who looked at the suggestions agreed with the proposals (which is borne out by the figures); therefore, they did not feel the need to record this by completing the survey.

## RECOMENDATIONS

10. Members are requested to:

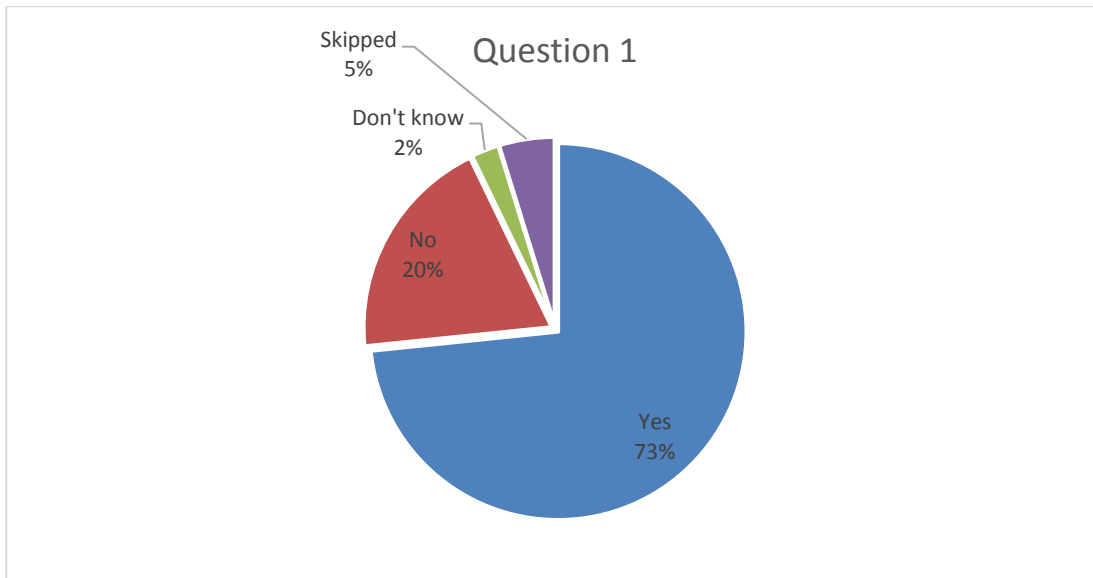
- (a) **consider** the 2017/18 IRMP action plan consultation outcomes as outlined in Appendix A; and
- (b) **agree** that the proposals will be progressed.

Colin Bage, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, 0191 3755585

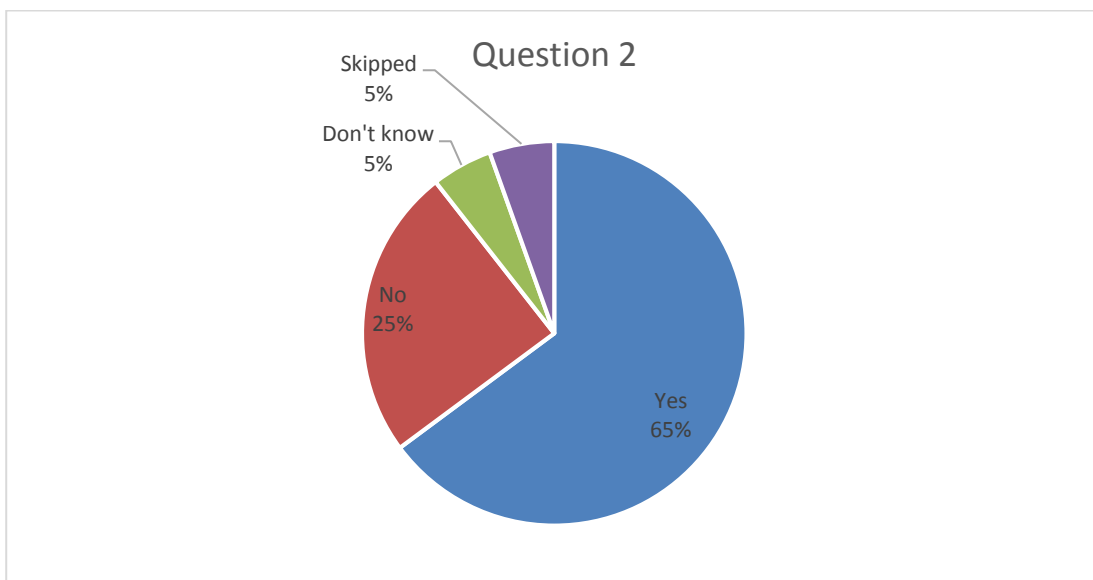
**2017/18 IRMP Annual Action Plan Consultation Feedback**

The questions asked in the public consultation and the results of public feedback are shown below.

Q1. Based on the outcomes of the emergency medical response trial, should we continue this work with North East Ambulance Service provided it supports our core fire and rescue service strategic priorities?



Q2. Would you support us in exploring further collaboration with health services in the future?



Q3. Do you agree that we should share High Handenhold Fire Station with Durham Police?

