

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	Cabinet
Date of Committee	8 September 2005
Report Title	Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004: The core functions of Warwickshire County Council in its role as a Fire and Rescue Authority.
Summary	This report provides an assessment of how Warwickshire County Council in its role as a Fire and Rescue Authority discharges its core functions under the Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004. The report also outlines a vision for future development of the Integrated Risk Management Plan that will reflect the contribution to reducing the community safety risk profile made by all WCC Departments on behalf on the Fire and Rescue Authority.
For further information Please contact:	William Brown County Fire Officer Tel: 01926423231 williambrown@warwickshire.gov.uk
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?	No
Background papers	Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 Crime and Safety O&S Committee Report dated 11 th January 2005 on the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 Cabinet Report dated 24 th February 2005 Corporate Community Safety Policy Statement 24 th May 2004
Appendices:	Appendix 1: Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

- Other Committees IRMP Policy Panel – 26 August 2005.
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member Cllr Richard Hobbs
- Chief Executive
- Legal
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION: For Information

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Cabinet

8 September 2005

Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004: The core functions of Warwickshire County Council in its role as a Fire and Rescue Authority

Report of the County Fire Officer

Recommendation

That Cabinet note the contents of the report and approve the approach outlined to developing the Integrated Risk Management Plan by the County Fire Officer.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council is committed to making Warwickshire the safest place to live, work and visit and has adopted as one of its six corporate objectives: "Reducing crime and improving safety". The Corporate Community Safety Policy Statement recognised that many sociological, economic and environmental issues affect people's well-being and quality of life. It also gave a commitment to ensuring that an integrated approach by County Council departments, targeted at areas of most need, is adopted during the planning and delivery of activities designed to provide a sustainable improvement in community safety.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is provide members with an overview of the work carried out so far to fully assess how Warwickshire County Council discharges its main duties as a Fire and Rescue Authority and to provide an outline vision of how the Integrated Risk Management Plan might be developed in the future.

2.0 The Core Functions of a Fire and Rescue Authority

- 2.1 The Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004 puts the prevention of fires at the heart of legislation, with the creation of a duty to promote fire safety; and gives Fire and Rescue Authorities powers to work with other partners in the community to deliver this duty.
- 2.2 The Act gives statutory effect to other roles Fire and Rescue Authorities already undertake such as extinguishing fires and protecting life and property, dealing with road traffic accidents and, responding to other emergencies.

- 2.3 Personnel in Fire and Rescue have been mapping the activities of other departments to show how they make a contribution to reducing the risk of fire and other emergencies.
- 2.4 The initial outline map has been produced as Appendix 1 to this report and shows how Warwickshire County Council discharges the core functions of a Fire and Rescue Authority under the Act. The next stage in developing the map is to validate and refine the content using feedback from all departments. Fire and Rescue will continue to take the lead in this project.

3.0 Integrated Risk Management Plan – A Future Vision

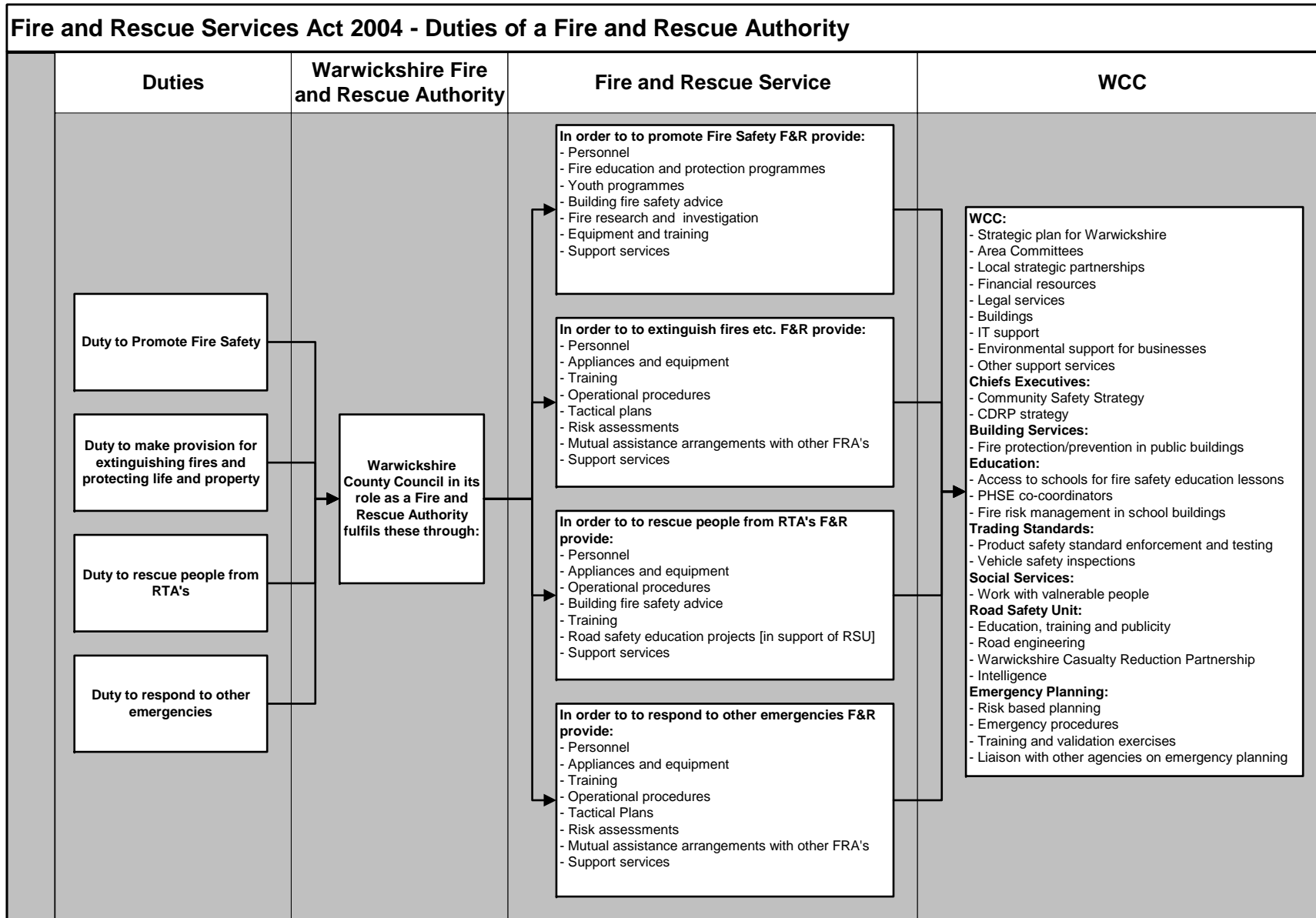
- 3.1 The Fire and Rescue Services National Framework Document requires a Fire and Rescue Authority to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan and it is envisaged that in future years the contribution that the cross cutting community safety work carried out by Warwickshire County Council departments and its strategic partners will form an integral component of that plan.
- 3.2 If this view is endorsed it follows on that the response to managing risk in the communities of Warwickshire must be integrated within a co-ordinated planning framework if resources are to be deployed more efficiently and effectively in the future. Research into identifying and or developing a suitable model for this planning framework is ongoing within Fire and Rescue and will be the subject of a consultation process with other departments in the future.
- 3.3 Warwickshire County Council in its role as a Fire and Rescue Authority has been successful in reducing the impact of fire within the communities of Warwickshire. The work done by departments other than Fire and Rescue in tackling the community safety issues has played a part in achieving that success.

4.0 Conclusion

If we are to committed to ensuring that Warwickshire is a safe place to live and work then we must begin to acknowledge the complexity and interconnectivity of the social, economic and environmental factors that influence the community safety profile of the communities of Warwickshire. The full contribution of all stakeholders towards reducing the risk of fire and other emergencies can then be reflected within the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authorities Integrated Risk Management Plan.

William Brown
County Fire Officer

Shire Hall
Warwick
August 2005



DRAFT - IRMP