

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Council

**Date of Committee** 11 April 2006

**Report Title** Integrated Risk Management Plan Year 3  
Action Plan - Consultation

**Summary** This paper sets out the Integrated Risk Management Plan Year 3 Action Plan. The final version of the plan has been produced following consideration of all the feedback received during the consultation period from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005. This was considered by Cabinet on 9 March who recommended this to Council for approval.

**For further information please contact:** William Brown  
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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** No.

**Background papers** Fire and Rescue Service National Framework Document 2005 – 2006  
  
Integrated Risk Management Plan  
  
IRMP Consultation Responses

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN when submitted to Cabinet:**

Details to be specified

- Other Committees  IRMP Policy Panel
- Local Member(s)  .....
- Other Elected Members  Councillor John Haynes, Councillor David Shilton
- Cabinet Member  Councillor Richard Hobbs
- Chief Executive
- Legal  Ian Marriott
- Finance  Oliver Winters

- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**FINAL DECISION YES**

- 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  .....

## Council

11 April 2006

### Integrated Risk Management Plan Year 3 Action Plan - Consultation

#### Report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer

##### **Recommendation**

That Council adopts the Integrated Risk Management Year Three Action Plan on behalf of the Fire Authority from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006.

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 makes it a statutory requirement for Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan [IRMP].
- 1.2 Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority have produced an IRMP that identifies the risk from fire and other emergencies to the communities of Warwickshire. It also examines how effective the current arrangements are in risk reduction through prevention, protection and intervention and then presents opportunities for further improvement. The Fire and Rescue Authority place a strong emphasis on prevention.
- 1.3 The IRMP is underpinned and supported by annual action plans that provide an agenda for improvement based upon meeting the local needs of the community and providing value for money through greater efficiency.
- 1.4 A third annual action plan was produced during 2005 and a consultation exercise involving the community and key stakeholders on the content of the draft plan was held from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005. The consultation strategy was developed in accordance with the code of practice on consultation issued by the HM Government's Cabinet Office.
- 1.5 This report and Plan has been considered by Cabinet (9 March) who have recommended that it be adopted by Council.

## **2. Consultation - External**

- 2.1 A copy of the action plan along with the full IRMP was placed on the website together with an on-line questionnaire to receive feedback. A copy of the action plan was sent to other public sector agencies, local businesses, District and Borough Councils, Parish Councils, neighbouring Fire and Rescue Authorities, Representative Bodies, MPs and MEPs for Warwickshire inviting them to make a written response.
- 2.2 Five focus groups were held one in each of the District/Borough Council areas. The participants were recruited from the Warwickshire County Council's Citizen's Panel.

## **3. Consultation – Internal**

- 3.1 The draft IRMP Year 3 Action Plan was sent to all Service locations as part of the 'team briefing' communication process by line managers. A number of staff meetings have also been held at Service locations covering Service Headquarters, Fire Safety, Training and Development, Area Risk Teams and Fire Stations.

## **4. Consultation – A Summary of the Main Findings**

### **4.1 Written Responses**

- 4.1.1 During the consultation period a number of written responses were received all of which were supportive of the proposed objectives within the plan. A number of responses stated that they were opposed to the closure of their local fire station and one response expressed their opposition to alterations to the wholetime duty system.
- 4.1.2 The Retained Firefighters Union in its written response having talked about the benefits of the retained duty system commented that *"there is clear evidence that these objectives will present difficulties in combating those barriers to change that will take advantage of the public's desire to limitless increases in the provision of services"*.
- 4.1.3 The Fire Brigades Union in its written response stated that we should wait for the completion of the IRMP Y2 projects on duty systems before embarking on a review of others. In general they raised concerns against all the objectives within their response that focussed on FBU National Policy [on co-responder schemes], limited budgets, data management and duplication of effort with other agencies.

### **4.2 On-line Questionnaire**

- 4.2.1 During the consultation period a total of 58 on-line questionnaires were completed. Analysis of these returns shows that 70% of these respondents were employed by a fire and rescue service. Six out of the nine objectives were supported by a clear majority of respondents.

4.2.2 This pattern differed significantly for Objective 2 “wholetime duty system” were the clear majority of the respondents were opposed to the objective. Objective 3 “officer duty system” only just received a positive endorsement whilst the view on Objective 8 “co-responder scheme” was equally split between those in favour and those who were opposed.

### 4.3 Focus Groups

4.3.1 The focus groups expressed their satisfaction with the performance of Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service. Members of the panels stated that they were unaware of the full scope of the services provided prior to attending the group and expressed their support for the range of intervention, prevention and protection based services that are currently being delivered by Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service.

4.3.2 The consultants who carried out the focus groups have prepared a full report that is available by contacting Area Manager Stephen Haynes.

### 4.4 Staff Meetings

4.4.1 In general the majority of staff who attended the meetings at their workplace expressed support for Objectives 1, 4, 6,7 and 9 with very few dissenting voices against them. Objectives 2 and 8 were the most strongly opposed. Objectives 3 and 5 received a mix response between staff who voiced support and those who voiced opposition.

## 5. Amendments to the Draft IRMP Year Two Action Plan

5.1 In order to give feedback to stakeholders regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the approved IRMP Year 3 Action Plan a comprehensive report will be produced and circulated to respondents as well as being made freely available to the Community.

5.2 Following the consultation process the following amendments have been made to the draft IRMP Year 3 Action Plan:

Objective	Change Record	Comments
1	Objective deleted following consultation	Concerns were expressed at staff meetings and by the FBU about the meaning and purpose of this objective. It has been deleted because the process of monitoring project and the ongoing reduction in risk are embedded within FRS performance management processes
2	No Change	Whilst the concerns of respondents and staff are acknowledged there is a need to demonstrate that the wholetime duty system fulfils the needs of the IRMP. WFRS has also demonstrated its commitment to staff engagement in change through IRMP Y2 Projects

Objective	Change Record	Comments
3	No Change	Whilst the concerns of respondents and staff are acknowledged there is a need to demonstrate that the flexible duty system fulfils the needs of the IRMP. WFRS has also demonstrated its commitment to staff engagement in change through IRMP Y2 Projects
4	Objective deleted following consultation	A number of Parish Councils raised concerns about the closure of local fire stations. However there is a need to review fire and emergency cover in order to ensure that the right resources are in the right place at the right time to reduce the risk and impact of fire and other emergencies. This objective has been removed from the plan, as a review will form part of the work to prepare IRMP 2007 – 2010.
5	No Change	The recent major fire at Buncefield Oil Depot provided a graphic illustration of the need to work collaboratively with other FRS.
6	No Change	This objective was generally supported by consultees and will help WFRS to prepare its systems for integration with the FiReControl and Firelink projects
7	Objective deleted following consultation	Staff expressed concern that this objective was a repetition of objective 9 and the FBU raised concerns over the capacity within teams to deliver in a reasonable timescale.
8	No change	The Fire Brigades Union and members of staff all raised concerns about this objective. The subject of co-responders has always been part of the FRS Modernisation agenda and the draft Fire and Rescue National Framework 2006 – 2008 contains the recommendation that FRA's should "...actively review the opportunities for improving community safety by implementing co-responder schemes in partnership with other agencies".
9	No Change	This objective was on the whole supported by consultees with few dissenting voices.

## 6. Conclusion

6.1 The amendments following the consultation exercise are indicated in appendix 1 to this report. A final version of the action plan has been provided as appendix 2.

6.2 The IRMP Year 3 Action Plan when approved will be circulated to key stakeholders and made available on the County Council's website. Copies of the plan will also be available on request from members of the public. In order to publicise the action plan a press release will be prepared.

William Brown  
Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer

March 2006

Appendix 1 – IRMP Draft Year 3 Action Plan as amended following consultation:

	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Benefits to the Community</b>
<b>1 1</b>	<del>To ensure that the ongoing reduction in risk achieved through the Year 2 Action Plan is maintained and to ensure that benefits from projects that overrun are realised within Q1 of 06/07 [Deleted following consultation]</del>	
<b>2</b>	To produce a report that examines the business case for potential changes to the wholtime duty system including a full option appraisal within Q2 06/07	An improved level service through the more efficient and effective use of resources within a system that is legally compliant and family friendly for our workforce
<b>3</b>	To produce a report that examines the business case for potential changes to the flexible duty system including a full option appraisal within Q2 06/07	An improved level service through the more efficient and effective use of resources within a system that is legally compliant and family friendly for our workforce
<b>4</b>	<del>To carry out a review of our intervention resource deployment and produce a report that contains an options appraisal for improving the deployment of our fire and emergency cover within Q3 06/07 [Deleted following initiation of project to produce IRMP 2007 - 2010]</del>	
<b>5</b>	To investigate the feasibility of increasing the collaborative use of resources with neighbouring fire and rescue authorities and produce a report that contains a full options appraisal and highlights the expected benefits within Q3 06/07	A reduction in the risk to the community and firefighters through a more effective and efficient response to incidents



	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Benefits to the Community</b>
<b>6</b>	Carry out a review of our process for collecting, storing and retrieving risk based information for our incident tactical planning system. The outcomes of the review will be reported in a business case that contains clear recommendations for improvement and future investment within Q3 06/07	A reduction in the risk from fire and other emergencies to firefighters and the community
<b>7</b>	<del>To collate, check and refine data in order to produce a community risk profile that can be used as evidence for future Integrated Risk Management Plans within Q1 06/07 [Deleted following consultation]</del>	
<b>8</b>	To investigate the feasibility of introducing a formal co-responder service for medical emergencies. The outcomes of the review will be reported in a business case that contains a full options appraisal and highlights the value to be added by this type of service within Q4 06/07	An improved level of service when medical emergencies occur within the community
<b>9</b>	Commission a research project into the fire risk to vulnerable people in Warwickshire and the effectiveness of fire safety programmes. The research findings will be published in a report within Q2 06/07	A more effective approach to targeting fire safety programmes to vulnerable people and a reduction in the risk of social exclusion through the impact of fire within individual communities

Appendix 2 – IRMP Year 3 Action Plan Final Version

	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Benefits to the Community</b>
<b>1</b>	To produce a report that examines the business case for potential changes to the wholetime duty system including a full option appraisal within Q4 06/07	An improved level service through the more efficient and effective use of resources within a system that is legally compliant and family friendly for our workforce
<b>2</b>	To produce a report that examines the business case for potential changes to the flexible duty system including a full option appraisal within Q4 06/07	An improved level service through the more efficient and effective use of resources within a system that is legally compliant and family friendly for our workforce
<b>3</b>	To investigate the feasibility of increasing the collaborative use of resources with neighbouring fire and rescue authorities and produce a report that contains a full options appraisal and highlights the expected benefits within Q3 06/07	A reduction in the risk to the community and firefighters through a more effective and efficient response to incidents
<b>4</b>	Carry out a review of our process for collecting, storing and retrieving risk based information for our incident tactical planning system. The outcomes of the review will be reported in a business case that contains clear recommendations for improvement and future investment within Q3 06/07	A reduction in the risk from fire and other emergencies to firefighters and the community

	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Benefits to the Community</b>
<b>5</b>	To investigate the feasibility of introducing a formal co-responder service for medical emergencies. The outcomes of the review will be reported in a business case that contains a full options appraisal and highlights the value to be added by this type of service within Q4 06/07	An improved level of service when medical emergencies occur within the community
<b>6</b>	Commission a research project into the fire risk to vulnerable people in Warwickshire and the effectiveness of fire safety programmes. The research findings will be published in a report within Q3 06/07	A more effective approach to targeting fire safety programmes to vulnerable people and a reduction in the risk of social exclusion through the impact of fire within individual communities