

**Council
18 July 2017**

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan 2017-2020 and Action Plan 2017/18.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2017-2020 and Action Plan 2017/18.

NB. The IRMP and appendices have been circulated separately to those members who have not already received a copy as a member of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Cabinet.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Since 2003 every Fire and Rescue Authority has been subject to a statutory requirement to produce a local IRMP that fulfils the requirements of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England. The Framework establishes the following priorities that need to be considered within an IRMP;
- To identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue-related risks their areas face, make provision for prevention and protection activities and respond to incidents appropriately;
 - To work in partnership with their communities and a wide range of partners locally and nationally to deliver their service;
 - To be accountable to communities for the service they provide.
- 1.2 Responsibility for preparing the IRMP rests with the Fire Authority. The IRMP provides a brief summary of the work undertaken in the last three years and sets out how WFRS plan to build upon the progress made. It aims to identify emerging risks and new opportunities as well as highlight the challenges the Fire Authority will face over the next three year period.
- 1.3 The IRMP summarises how, through effective planning, WFRS consider all fire and rescue service related risks within the community and aim to respond to them, making the most effective and efficient use of people, resources and equipment. Reasonably foreseeable risks range from small fires, to extreme events such as the acts of terrorism experienced recently in London and Manchester.
- 1.4 The IRMP 2017-2020 reflects the forthcoming new legal duty for “Blue Light Collaboration” amongst all blue light agencies, and will support the three pillars of Home Office fire reform:
- Efficiency and collaboration;
 - Accountability and transparency;

- Reform of the workforce.

2.0 Proposals for 2017-2020

2.1 The IRMP 2017- 2020 describes the following 5 proposals to guide areas of work over the next 3 years. The detail around the changes that WFRS propose to implement as a result of these areas of work will be communicated through IRMP Action Plans. This IRMP will be published with the proposed Action Plan covering 2017/18.

- **Identify further opportunities to develop collaborative working with other blue light services to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and public safety;**

The scope of this proposal includes development of the following areas of work within the Action Plan for 2017/18:

The completion of the current Joint Control project with Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service will provide the technological platform to enable the move to a single Fire Control facility. Preliminary work has begun to establish the most viable location and staffing model of a shared facility, with the aim of reducing costs whilst providing a better resourced and more resilient service to the public.

The implementation of an Emergency Medical Response arrangement with West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) in those areas where firefighters are able to attend cardiac arrests and other priority medical emergencies more quickly than the ambulance service. Across the UK currently there are 35 Fire and Rescue Services operating EMR schemes in all regions with the notable exception of the West Midlands. For some considerable time, the 5 FRS's in the region have been progressing a dialogue with the senior leadership of West Midlands Ambulance Service to pilot or operate such an EMR scheme. In recent months some progress has been made in advancing the concept further although no operational developments have yet been agreed.

To further develop our collaborative working as a member of the Blue Light Collaboration Board, which exists across the Warwickshire and West Mercia Police areas. This Board is overseeing a range of operational collaboration opportunities, with Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and Warwickshire and West Mercia Police to explore all operational, service support and future governance opportunities in keeping with the forthcoming legal duty.

- **Review the number, location and resourcing of our fire stations and fire engines;**

In the Action Plan for 2017/18 we propose to develop an asset management plan which sets out the future changes needed in the locations of our

premises and fire engines, and incorporate within the Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Capital Expenditure Programme. Any additional resource requirements will be subject to the usual corporate approval processes before they are added to the capital programme. This will form the basis for ensuring our model of service delivery continues to match the changing risk profile of the county, and ensure our estate remains fit for purpose to meet the needs of its communities over the next three years and beyond.

Our existing aerial appliances will be 10 years old in 2017 and this is the correct time to begin assessing our options for the number and type of replacements required. Taking into account that our regional partners are undertaking a similar exercise, the aim will be to provide an appropriate level of aerial availability across the West Midlands region.

- **Maximise the flexibility and utility of our workforce;**

We propose that during 2017/18 we review our RDS recruitment needs and practices to maximise fire engine availability, and optimise the balance between wholetime (WDS) and on-call (RDS) staffing of key fire stations.

Whilst reviewing the emergency response part of our Service is important, we intend to do so within a wider framework that considers the optimum organisational balance of resources. Regardless of size, every Fire and Rescue Service has to meet the same range of corporate demands in an effective and resilient way. We will also consider our organisational capacity and capability against the learning outcomes of the Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge we received in November 2016, and the challenging national agenda, such as the Home Office fire reform programme.

- **Develop the use of emerging technology;**

In our Action Plan 2017/18 we propose to consider, and if appropriate secure, any new technology that would deliver tangible benefits to firefighter safety and/or improve the effectiveness of our emergency response. Areas of scope include Road Traffic Collision (RTC) extrication equipment to meet the demands of new and more challenging vehicle designs, and new fire extinguishing equipment. We also propose to extend the use of Light Rescue Pumps (LRPs) within the Service.

- **Use our capacity to improve wider community health and social care outcomes.**

We recognise the opportunity to provide wider social value with the fire and rescue resources we have available. In our Action Plan 2017/18 we propose that partnerships are developed with counterpart public services such as public health and neighbouring FRS's that are already active in these initiatives to develop pilot projects for:

- Slips, trips and fall prevention,
- Telecare rapid response support,
- Home assessments for hospital discharge.

We also propose to widen our existing Home Fire Safety Visit programme and deliver a broader Safe and Well approach to the most vulnerable within our communities, and extend the 'Heartshield' programme (the provision of cardiopulmonary (CPR) resuscitation and positive lifestyle training) to school pupils across the county.

- 2.2 A nine week consultation process was undertaken January 9th 2017 – March 10th 2017. The Consultation Summary report provides a brief outline of the main outcomes of the consultation process. No significant changes were required to be made to the draft IRMP and Action Plan.
- 2.3 The Action Plans for 2018/19 and 2019/20 will be subject to further consultation where appropriate.
- 2.4 A number of the actions within the IRMP Action Plan 2017/18 will contribute to the OOP 2020 savings plans. Those actions that will require investment will either be funded from within existing departmental budgets, or be subject to successful bids to either corporate or external funding streams.
- 3.0 Consideration by Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.**
- 3.1 The Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this at their meeting on 5 July and expressed their support for the IRMP.
- 3.2 Cabinet will be considering this at its meeting on 13 July and if there are any proposed amendments these will be forwarded to Council.

Background Information

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for its meeting on 5 July 2017) and Cabinet (for its meeting on 13 July 2017).