

Proposed Decision to be Made by the Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety on or after 7 August 2020

Permission to Consult on the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety
Date of decision	August 2020
	Signed

Decision

That the Portfolio Holder for Fire and Rescue and Community Safety approves the undertaking of a public consultation process on the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) covering the period 2020 to 2025.

Reasons for decision

Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 states that Fire Authorities must comply with the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, which requires each Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) to produce an IRMP, that must include effective consultation with the community.

1.0 Background information

1.1 The IRMP 2020 - 2025 sets out the Fire Authority's vision and priorities for the next five years and the actions WFRS will take to ensure Warwickshire's communities and individuals are

supported, to be safe, healthy and independent. The plan fulfils the requirements of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, which sets out the government's expectations for all FRSs. The framework recognises that FRSs are best placed to identify, prepare for and address the risks within the communities they serve.

1.2 Our plan reflects up to date risk analyses and demonstrates how the Service assesses and manages foreseeable risks within our communities. It allows us to ensure that Warwickshire remains a safe place to live and work and it describes how we mitigate risks through our activities and the effective and efficient use of our people, resources and equipment.

1.3 Our approach to developing the IRMP consists of incorporating and coordinating a number of elements to form a continuous and interactive process. It will continue to evolve and adapt to address and mitigate emerging national and local community risks and will reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages. In this way, our methodology allows us to review and revise our plan as often as it is necessary to ensure that we are able to deliver the requirements set out within it.

1.4 The IRMP therefore includes the following components all of which will be easily accessible and available for the public consultation:

- IRMP 20-25 Summary Document (includes the proposals)
- Warwickshire Risk Profile 2020
- Local Area Profiles
- Community Risk Register
- Warwickshire Insights (includes our performance)
- Annual Action Plans
- Our Annual Review
- Annual Statement of Assurance

1.5 Proposals:

1.6 The service is seeking permission to consult on the following IRMP proposals:

- Ensure our workforce and ethos reflect the diverse communities we serve
- Assess our capabilities to improve our ways of working in response to any future pandemics
- Assess our overall resource capacity to ensure our personnel and physical assets are in the right place and at the right time to deliver our statutory duties
- Develop further opportunities to support the wider community health outcomes and help to protect Social Care and the NHS
- Implement digital solutions to enhance our service delivery

1.7 These proposals will inform and influence our future annual action and business plans over the five year period of the IRMP, and in this way, will support WCC outcomes and objectives as outlined in the Council Plan 2020/2025. We are also aware that the second objective proposed within the IRMP needs to align closely with the Council's Covid 19 recovery action plan which is due to be finalised by September 2020. We will ensure we link with wider recovery workstreams (economy, place and climate, health and social care, organisation) in order to support areas where appropriate and work with IMPOWER to identify future collaboration opportunities. For this reason we are flexible in our approach to this and will adapt to suit future need and pressures.

1.8 The action planning process will detail how prevention, protection and response activities will

best be used to prevent fires and other incidents and mitigate the impact of identified risks on our communities in a way that will make best use of available resources.

1.9 Timescales Associated with the Decision and Next Steps:

1.10 It is proposed that an 8-week consultation exercise takes place between Monday 14 September 2020 and Friday 6 November 2020 using WCC's consultation platform and WFRS and WCC's social media to connect with the various stakeholders including communities, staff, partners, and representative bodies. WFRS's Community Engagement officer will set and co-ordinate focus groups to ensure we reach a diverse and wide-ranging audience.

1.11 We are aware that the current situation around the Covid 19 pandemic may affect our face to face consultation opportunities, however we intend to address this by making use of technology and holding virtual meetings (e.g. closed Facebook group, virtual focus groups, etc).

1.12 The outcomes of the consultation and the resulting proposed draft IRMP will be considered by Cabinet in February 2021. The Cabinet will then make recommendations to full Council seeking approval of the new IRMP at the Council meeting on 16 March 2021.

1.13 It is intended that the IRMP would be implemented from April 2021.

2.0 Financial implications

2.1 The costs of undertaking the consultation will be covered within existing budgets. These costs are minimal and related to officer time and limited printing costs.

2.2 Action planning throughout the five year period of the IRMP will develop a number of projects for which funding may need to be sought as appropriate.

3.0 Environmental implications

3.1 There are no specific environmental issues identified with the consultation process itself. It will make use of technology and digital solutions in order to minimise the use of paper and hard copy documentation.

3.2 The Service will consider environmental implications and impacts throughout the delivery of the IRMP.

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Lead Director	Mark Ryder, Strategic Director for Communities
Lead Member	Councillor Andy Crump, Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No

Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?

No

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Andy Crump
Corporate Board – Mark Ryder
Legal – Jane Pollard
Finance – Caroline Jones
Equality – Keira Rounsley
Democratic Services – Paul Williams