

Cabinet

8 October 2020

Integrated Risk Management Plan: Assurance Panel

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approve the proposals set out within this paper to oversee the delivery of WFRS' new Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and to monitor progress against the subsequent annual action plans.
2. That Cabinet establishes an Integrated Risk Management Plan: Assurance Panel as set out in paragraph 2.1 chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Fire and Rescue and Community Safety with nominations to the Panel to be sought from the Group Leaders.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 Previous experience: members of the previous IRMP Task and Finish Group held the view that the meetings between cross party members and officers of WFRS provided a valuable opportunity to consider and discuss fire and rescue issues in greater depth than is normally possible in formal meetings.
- 1.2 National Reports: The State of Fire Report: The Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England 2019, Sir Thomas Winsor states that Fire Authorities need assurance that fire services are working efficiently and effectively resourcing to risk. WFRS' IRMP addresses these areas and sets out plans for managing foreseeable future risks. Sir Thomas goes on to say that this assurance should be provided through a robust performance management framework that includes regular scrutiny by Members of the Fire Authority.
- 1.3 The Local Government Association (LGA) recently published a governance guidance document for Fire Authority members; 'Leading the Fire Sector: Oversight of Fire and Rescue Performance'. A key recommendation within this guidance is that Fire Authorities ensure that effective scrutiny is embedded within their governance arrangements.

2.0 Options and Proposal

- 2.1 To create a cross-party IRMP assurance panel and widen its remit to ensure continual overview and monitoring of Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). Whilst the political balance rules do not formally apply a panel size of 6 elected members would normally comprise 4 Con; 1 Lab; 1 Liberal Democrat. It is intended that the Panel should have maximum flexibility in the way that it operates. It is not intended

to operate as a formal committee and the access to information framework will not be applicable.

- 2.2 The Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) is a technical document and involves assessing all Fire and Rescue related risk and vulnerability across the community of Warwickshire. The Chief Fire Officer (CFO), utilising his technical and operational competence, will develop and produce the IRMP and present this to Council for approval. Cabinet will then consider this against the financial and political environment and agree the actions for the next 12 months. The CFO will then, again through their technical and operational competence, deliver the IRMP on a day to day basis.
- 2.3. The role of the IRMP assurance panel is to ensure that the CFO is delivering the elements of the IRMP on a day to day basis in line with the agreed action plan to ensure that the best possible service is being provided to the communities of Warwickshire.
- 2.4 The role of the CFO is to own and lead the delivery of the IRMP on a day to day basis, ensuring the operational delivery of key services to the communities of Warwickshire.
- 2.5 It is suggested that the membership of the Panel should be:

Portfolio Holder
3 Conservatives
1 Labour
1 Liberal Democrat

There is also an option for the Portfolio Holder to ask a peer from another FRS to be a guest on the panel to provide a peer assessment of the delivery of the IRMP within Warwickshire. This is to create an environment of peer learning and support.

- 2.6 Terms of Reference
- To act as a 'critical friend' in order to challenge and monitor the delivery of the Integrated Risk Management Plan.
 - To use a blend of qualitative and quantitative evidence to understand performance
 - To provide independent scrutiny of the IRMP and its workstreams.
 - To performance manage WFRS against the objectives set within each year's IRMP action plan.
 - To act as enablers for any potential barriers to achieving objectives.
 - To champion the IRMP and the work supporting it.
 - To assist WFRS link in with other corporate strategic documents that are working to address the same areas.

2.7 Governance

The assurance panel will share the outcomes of its work with Corporate Board and provide update performance reports to Cabinet and escalate risks to objectives when necessary to Cabinet.

3.0 Financial Implications

3.1 None relating to this specific report, but financial implications would be considered during enactment of the measures proposed.

4.0 Environmental Implications

4.1 None relating to this specific report, but environmental implications would be considered during enactment of the measures proposed.

5.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

IRMP 2020/+A1:C2725 Corporate Governance Timeline for presentation at the 16.03.2021 Council Meeting		
Council Deadlines	Date	Event
	01.02.2021	Draft IRMP 2025 and Consultation Report and Analysis on forward plan for 16.03.2021 council meeting
	07.03.2021	Finalisation of the report for Council
	16.03.2021	Draft IRMP and Consultation Report and Analysis considered for approval at full council meeting
Cabinet Deadlines	30.12.2020	Draft IRMP 2025 and Consultation Report and Analysis on forward plan for 11.02.2021 Cabinet meeting
	11.02.2021	Cabinet consideration of proposals for Council
Consultation Analysis and Report Writing	07.12.2020 to 05.01.2021	3 week analysis and 2 week report writing - bearing in mind Christmas
Consultation Period (8 weeks)	12.10.2020 to 06.12.2020	Proposed 8 weeks consultation period

6.0 Background papers

6.1. None

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

Local Members: None

Other Members: Councillors Warwick, Singh Birdi, Falp, Boad and O'Rourke