

**Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee**

**16 March 2018**

**The Publication of a Draft 2018 – 2022 Integrated Risk Management Plan for Fire and Rescue, for the Purposes of Consultation with the Public.**

**Report by Executive Director for Communities and Public Protection and Director of Operations and Chief Fire Officer.**

**Summary**

The focus for scrutiny is the text draft 2018 – 2022 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority. A draft of this document accompanies this report (see Appendix A).

The Committee is asked to provide specific consideration on:

- The strategic priorities being set for the Fire and Rescue Service (page 2 of the draft IMRP). These will drive all future planning for the service, and will set the framework for ongoing accountability from the service on its performance, to the Fire Authority and to the public.
- The text of the IRMP. The views of the Select Committee will be considered and accounted for, before the document is published for consultation purposes. It should be noted that the text, as approved, will be put into an appropriate graphical format, for the purposes of communications with the public.
- The proposal to allow a public consultation period for the IRMP of 6 weeks, to run during the months of April and May 2018. Questions for that consultation have not been set, and the views of the Committee on what could be asked are sought.

**Recommendation(s)**

- (1) That the Strategic Objectives for West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service are supported.
- (2) That, subject to amendments tabled by the Committee, the text for the draft 2018 – 2022 IRMP is endorsed for the purposes of the public consultation.
- (3) That the Committee gives its views on the nature and content of the consultation.

## **Proposal**

### **1. Background and Context**

- 1.1 Producing an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) is a statutory requirement for all Fire and Rescue Authorities, under the National Framework for Fire and Rescue.
- 1.2 As per the National Framework, each plan must:
  - i. Reflect up to date risk analyses including an assessment of all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the area of the authority;
  - ii. Demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to prevent fires and other incidents and mitigate the impact of identified risks on its communities, through authorities working either individually or collectively, in a cost effective way;
  - iii. Include an evaluation of service delivery outcomes including the allocation of resources, for the mitigation of those risks;
  - iv. Set out its management strategy and risk-based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in accordance with the principles of better regulation set out in the Statutory Code of Compliance for Regulators, and the Enforcement Concordat;
  - v. Cover at least a three-year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as it is necessary to ensure that the authority is able to deliver the requirements set out in this Framework;
  - vi. Reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners; and
  - vii. Be easily accessible and publicly available.
- 1.3 The last IRMP was published in 2015. However, as agreed at a meeting of the Environment and Community Services Select Committee in November 2017, a new IRMP is being drafted, which will cover the 4 years from 2018 to 2022. The reason for this is to ensure that recent changes to the risk environment, such as those arising from Grenfell and a series of national terrorist incidents, can be fully accounted for. It is also important to ensure that provisions under the Policing and Crime Act 2017, and drivers from the Home Office Reform agenda, are fully considered.
- 1.4 IRMPs must be subject to meaningful consultation with the public.

### **2. Proposal**

- 2.1 Under the direction of the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities, West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, within West Sussex County Council, has prepared a draft text for the proposed 2018 – 2022 IRMP, on behalf of the Fire Authority.
- 2.2 In accordance with the requirements for an IRMP, the document covers the following:

- An introduction to the Fire and Rescue Service, and its role, as part of West Sussex County Council.
  - The risk picture within the County.
  - The structure of the service, its people and resources.
  - Response standards.
  - Collaboration and partnerships.
  - Challenges.
  - Strategic aims and plans for the next four years.
  - Risk management, planning, governance and performance reporting.
- 2.3 The text for the draft IRMP for 2018 – 2022 is appended to this report for consideration and approval by the Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee (see Appendix A). This is to apply scrutiny for the purposes of a non-Key Decision by the Cabinet Member to issue this document for consultation with the public.
- 2.4 In considering this document, the Select Committee is asked to make specific consideration of the strategic priorities being set for the Fire and Rescue Service (page 2 of the draft IMRP). These will drive all future planning for the service, and will set the framework for ongoing accountability from the service on its performance, to the Fire Authority and to the public.
- 2.5 The Committee is also asked to consider the textual elements, for the purposes of publication, and recommend any amendments required.
- 2.6 The views of the Select Committee will be considered and accounted for, before the document is published for consultation purposes. It should be noted that the text, as approved, will be put into an appropriate graphical format, for the purposes of communications with the public.
- 2.7 A public consultation period for the IRMP of six weeks, to run during the months of April and May 2018, is proposed. The views of the committee are being sought on the nature and content of the consultation.

### **3. Resources**

- 3.1 The IRMP is important to the allocation of resources across the Fire and Rescue Service in West Sussex, as it is required to outline how the service will assign its resources, to address risks identified within the County.
- 3.2 Specific coverage of resourcing is provided in sections of the IRMP covering how the service is structured (Appendix A, page 31), its resources (*ibid* page 32) and its people (*ibid* page 33.).

### **Factors taken into account**

#### **4. Issues for consideration by the Select Committee**

- 4.1 Recommendations to the Committee are:

- 4.1.1 That the Strategic Objectives for West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service are supported.

4.1.2 That, subject to amendments tabled by the Committee, the text for the draft 2018 – 2022 IRMP is endorsed for the purposes of the public consultation.

4.1.3 That the Committee gives its views on the nature and content of the consultation.

Subject to this consideration, and the application of amendments arising, the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities will take a non-key decision authorising publication of the IRMP for consultation purposes.

## **5. Consultation**

5.1 In developing the draft IRMP, the following groups have been consulted:

- The Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities, on whose behalf the document has been prepared.
- Directorates within West Sussex County Council including representatives from: Adults Services; Economy, Planning and Place; Education and Skills; Energy, Waste and the Environment; Family Operations; Finance, Performance and Procurement; Highways and Transport; Law, Assurance and Strategy; and Public Protection.
- Unions.

5.2 Members are being consulted through discussion with the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities, and through review of the draft IRMP at the Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee. Once considered by the Select Committee, the matter will be subject to a non-Key Decision by the Cabinet Member.

5.3 Subject to consideration by the Select Committee and tabling of the Cabinet Member decision, the intention is to publish a draft of the IRMP online, for the purposes of the public consultation. In addition hard copies will be made available, where required to support accessibility. The consultation will run for six weeks, during April and May 2018.

5.4 The views of the public and partners will be taken into account in preparation of the final IRMP document. Feedback arising from the consultation will be considered by the Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee in June 2018, before a key decision by the Cabinet Member to adopt the IRMP in its final form.

## **6. Risk Management Implications**

6.1 The IRMP is a key risk management document. Its purpose is to document an assessment of risks relevant to the delivery of fire and rescue services within West Sussex, and to demonstrate how those risks are being addressed.

6.2 The preparation of an IRMP is a statutory requirement under the National Framework for Fire and Rescue. It is fundamental to the planning and delivery of Fire and Rescue Service operations in regards to response, prevention and protection within the County.

6.3 The key risks associated with the preparation of any IRMP are:

- That the document does not comply with statutory requirements. This is being mitigated via close reference to the National Framework for Fire and Rescue during generation of the document, consultation with appropriate Fire and Rescue Service professionals, and oversight by Members.
- That the document does not inform delivery by the Fire and Rescue Service. This is being mitigated through use of the IRMP action plans to directly inform business planning by the service, and by accounting to Members and residents, through an online performance dashboard and an annual Statement of Assurance.

## **7. Other Options Considered**

7.1 The preparation of an IRMP is a statutory requirement under the National Framework for Fire and Rescue.

## **8. Equality Duty**

8.1 No Equality and Impact Assessment has been completed, further to the drafting of the IRMP. This is a procedural matter.

8.2 Where the plan makes reference to a change or action, that specific change or action will be subject to a distinct impact assessment, to determine whether that proposal will have a disproportionate impact on those persons with protected characteristics, compared with those without such characteristics.

## **9. Social Value**

9.1 There are no procurements involved in this exercise which would be subject to Social Value requirements. It is procedural.

9.2 In terms of environmental sustainability, the IRMP makes clear the Authority's commitment to reducing the impact of its operations on page 13 of the draft document, and provides an indication of work done to date.

## **10. Crime and Disorder Implications**

10.1 Not applicable in this instance.

## **11. Human Rights Implications**

11.1 Not applicable in this instance.

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## **Appendices:**

[Appendix A Working Draft of the 2018-2022 IRMP v14](#)