Executive Summary

West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (WSFRS) has a statutory duty to consult on, and publish, a 3-5 year ‘Integrated Risk Management Plan’ (IRMP). The IRMP is an analysis of the risk profile in the county, and how the Fire & Rescue Service is organised to manage risks and support its local communities through a combination of prevention, protection and emergency response activities. To reflect the broader role WSFRS has within the Communities & Public Protection Directorate of the County Council, the IRMP for 2016-20 is known as the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP).

A public consultation was undertaken for the draft CRMP, with all feedback considered. Responses to issues raised have been made available on the ‘Have Your Say’ consultation hub on the County Council’s website.

Following public consultation the draft CRMP has been subject to further democratic scrutiny by the Environment & Community Services Select Committee.

Recommendation:

That, having considered the feedback from the consultation and the views of the Environment & Community Services Select Committee, the Cabinet Member for Residents’ Services endorses and agrees to adopt the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan 2016-20.

1. Background and Context

1.1 West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (WSFRS) has a statutory duty to consult on, and publish, a 3-5 year ‘Integrated Risk Management Plan’ (IRMP).
1.2 WSFRS has been through a significant transformation since its last IRMP was published. In West Sussex, the Fire & Rescue Service now has a much broader role, working at the heart of the Communities & Public Protection Directorate of West Sussex County Council. Firefighters work alongside County Council colleagues in Public Health, Community Safety, Trading Standards and Resilience & Emergencies to help communities become safer, stronger and more resilient.

1.3 To reflect the broader role WSFRS has within the Communities & Public Protection directorate of the County Council, in West Sussex the IRMP will be known as the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP).

1.4 The CRMP is an analysis of community risks, and explanation of how WSFRS is organised to support communities through a combination of prevention, protection and emergency response activities. The CRMP includes details of stations and crewing; specialist teams; progress since the previous IRMP was published; risk profiling; current issues (like the availability of retained firefighters), and potential future risks (for example, increased flooding, or supporting an ageing population). There are links to performance data and the WSFRS Annual Report, with other more detailed analysis such as station profiles being available on request.

2. **Consultation**

2.1 The public consultation was held 11 July – 5 August. Details were sent to all local media organisations including TV, radio, and newspapers. It was promoted on social media with weekly reminders. The consultation was sent to members of the County Council’s Residents e-Panel; staff; emergency services; partner organisations in the Sussex Resilience Forum; businesses; the voluntary sector; County Council elected Members, and all town, district and borough, and parish councils. The consultation was hosted online via the County Council’s ‘Have Your Say’ hub, and was developed in consultation with a County Council Consultation and Engagement Officer. Recipients were asked to complete an online questionnaire with the facility to add additional comments via the free text box. In addition, responses could be sent in writing, or via email to a dedicated email address.

2.2 The consultation received 80 online responses with the vast majority, 63 (78.5%), being from residents. There were 11 responses from staff; 4 from members / councillors, and 2 from business organisations / other fire services. In addition, written responses were received via email from Henfield Parish Council, Selsey Town Council, and East Grinstead Town Council.

Of the online questionnaire responses:

- **87.5%** agreed or strongly agreed the CRMP was easy to understand;
- **82.5%** agreed or strongly agreed the community risk information was clearly explained,
• **88.75%** agreed or strongly agreed that emergency response activity was clearly explained,

• **88.75%** agreed or strongly agreed that WSFRS reduces risk through its prevention, protection, and emergency response activities.

Written responses, via the online questionnaire or email, included additional comments on:

- Crewing levels and the availability of retained firefighters.
- Use of firefighters for an emergency medical response.
- Attendance times, particularly in rural areas.
- The future governance of the Fire & Rescue Service.
- Amalgamation with East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service.
- The use of the ‘Critical Risk Map’, risk modelling, and linking this to resource allocation.
- The positive value of prevention work like home safety visits.
- Fire death statistics.
- Firefighter training facilities.
- The joint Sussex Control Centre.
- The lack of an ‘immediate response’ crewed fire station in Mid Sussex.
- Future housing and population growth.

The online questionnaire allowed for anonymity and did not mandatorily require respondents to submit their name or contact details. Feedback on the issues raised was provided on the Have Your Say consultation hub via the County Council website.

2.3 The draft CRMP and the consultation report were circulated to the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee for scrutiny and discussed at their committee meeting on 15th September 2016.

2.4 The Committee raised concerns on the issue of firefighters responding to 'Red One’ medical emergencies in a joint co-responder scheme with South East Coast Ambulance (SECAmb). This is a pilot scheme. The impact on services, funding and benefits for residents will be examined as part of the pilot, and the results will be reported back to the Committee for discussion and agreement on how to proceed.

2.5 The Committee also requested that the CRMP be subject to an internal West Sussex County Council audit, and that a response is made to each issue raised during the consultation. This has been done and responses have been made publically available on the County Council’s Have Your Say consultation hub. The responses will be further publicised with a press release when the CRMP is published.

2.6 The CRMP was endorsed by the Committee.
3. **Proposal**

3.1 There were no new proposals to change the WSFRS operating model that has been in place since April 2015.

4. **Other Options considered**

4.1 No alternative options were considered as part of the CRMP, but options for crewing, shift patterns, and emergency response arrangements were considered previously in the development of the 2015 operating model and agreed through public consultation.

4.2 The CRMP builds on that operating model, and makes effective provision of resources for emergencies whilst supporting vulnerable residents and local communities through the closer integration of teams and services within the Communities & Public Protection directorate of West Sussex County Council.

4.3 Although no alternative options were considered as part of the CRMP, respondents to the public consultation were asked to comment on the operating model via a 'free text' box and raise any issues and concerns, or suggestions for service improvement. A response to all the comments made has been provided on the County Council’s Have Your Say consultation hub.

5. **Resource Implications and Value for Money**

5.1 There are no new resource implications or value for money issues. The plan can be delivered within the current budget and resource allocation.

6. **Impact of the proposal**

6.1 The role of the Fire & Rescue Service is integral to the role of the Communities & Public Protection directorate of West Sussex County Council. Firefighters provide added value working alongside teams and colleagues from Community Safety, Health, Trading Standards, and Resilience and Emergencies to deliver coordinated services designed to protect and support vulnerable residents and local communities.

6.2 Communities in West Sussex will not be adversely impacted by this plan based on current risk profiles. The Fire & Rescue Service works to protect and deliver positive outcomes for all who live, work, or travel through West Sussex without fear of discrimination, harassment or victimisation. The prevention, protection and emergency response activities as outlined in the CRMP are available to all equally, without regard to whether a service user has a protected characteristic or not.

6.3 An Equality Impact Report was undertaken and is attached to this report.
7. **Risk Management Implications**

7.1 There are no additional or new risk management implications. WSFRS monitors known and emerging risks in the County, and deploys resources to mitigate these through its prevention, protection and emergency response activities. The CRMP can be delivered within the current budget and resource allocation, based on current and projected future risks.

7.2 There could be potential risk management implications (political, reputational, legal and financial) should WSFRS fail to meet its statutory duties, or be unable to take reasonable actions to mitigate new or emerging community risks. The plan will be revised if resource availability or local risk factors change, or if there is a change in national risk issues, or other relevant external factors.

**Lee Neale**  
Chief Fire Officer and  
Executive Director  
Communities & Public Protection

**Neil Stocker**  
Assistant Chief Fire Officer and  
Director of Public Protection

Report by  
**Gary Towson**, Media and Communications Manager  033022 25002

**Background Documents**  
None

**Appendices**  
Appendix A – Equality Impact Report  
[Appendix B](#) – West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan 2016-20
Appendix A

Equality Impact Report

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<tr>
<td>EIR completed by:</td>
<td>Name: Gary Towson, Communications Manager, WSFRS</td>
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1. Decide whether this report is needed and, if so, describe how you have assessed the impact of the proposal.

Fire & Rescue Services have a statutory duty to consult on and publish an ‘Integrated Risk Management Plan’ (IRMP). Each IRMP has a lifespan of 3-5 years. The lifespan of the previous WSFRS IRMP ends in 2016.

An IRMP is a strategic assessment of community risks in their area, and how the Fire & Rescue Service uses its resources (including its working with partners) to reduce those risks as low as is practicably possible.

The public consultation sought the views of the public and stakeholders on the draft WSFRS IRMP 2016-20 (referred to as the WSFRS Community Risk Management Plan) All feedback was considered. There were no new proposals or negative impacts identified.

2. Describe any negative impact for customers or residents.

The operating model and deployment of resources for WSFRS has been agreed through the course of three major public consultations since the previous IRMP was published in 2010-11.

There are no proposed changes to the operating model in the CRMP. There are no known negative impacts for customers or residents.

3. Describe any positive effects which may offset any negative impact.

There is no known negative impact to offset. The CRMP updates the public and other stakeholders on community risks, fire service activity and operational demands on our service, and the public consultation gave stakeholders the opportunity to formally comment on our uses of resources.

4. Describe whether and how the proposal helps to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

There are no new proposals in the CRMP. The Fire & Rescue Service works to protect and deliver positive outcomes for all who live, work, or travel through West Sussex without fear of discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

5. Describe whether and how the proposal helps to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Fire & Rescue Service is available to all equally, without regard to whether a service user has a protected characteristic or not. Our planning takes into account the emergency resilience needs of the whole community, and what effective
preventative measures we can deliver to make them safer stronger and more resilient.

However, when resources are limited or stretched in times of emergency, practical assistance must be aimed at those most in need, including those who have less opportunity to help themselves.

6. Describe whether and how the proposal helps to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Fire & Rescue Service is available to all equally, without regard to whether a service user has a protected characteristic or not.

7. What changes were made to the proposal as a result? If none, explain why.

No major changes have been made to the CRMP as no requirements have been identified.

8. Explain how the impact will be monitored to make sure it continues to meet the equality duty owed to customers and say who will be responsible for this.

WSFRS will continue to monitor community risks and our response activities through a variety of means, including:

- Performance standards and data (published on the WSCC website).
- Community Risk Map (updated annually with 3yrs of rolling data including fire service activity and social demographics).
- After the incident surveys; impartially and independently reviewed analysis of customer feedback (WSFRS Management Information Team).
- Monitoring of customer complaints (WSFRS Management Information Team).

To be signed by an Executive Director or Director to confirm that they have read and approved the content.

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