

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY BUDGET MEETING
DATE:	21st FEBRUARY, 2008
REPORT NO.	CFO/53/08
REPORTING OFFICER:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	KEN PEEK DIRECTOR IRMP
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM
SUBJECT:	INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN - REPORT ON OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with a final account of the consultation process relating to the Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2 Action Plan 2 for 2008/9 and the amendments arising for consideration.

Recommendations

2. That the Authority:
 - (a) notes the contents of the report;
 - (b) agrees that the results of the consultation process be published on the Authority's website;

Background

3. The Authority, at its meeting on 18th October 2007, approved the draft I.R.M.P. Action Plan for public consultation. The consultation period commenced on 18th October 2007 and concluded 12 weeks later on the on 10th January 2008.

Consultation Process

4. Detailed guidance on consultation on the I.R.M.P. was issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (O.D.P.M.) on 28th July 2003 (the guidance having itself been subject to consultation). This guidance provides advice on the consultation arrangements the Government expects to be undertaken in developing an I.R.M.P. and in implementing the outcomes from that process.
5. Hard copies and electronic access to the draft IRMP 2 Action Plan 2 has been provided for publicising and distributing them as widely as possible.

6. We have provided significant opportunity for public debate of the documents and any issues they raise in each of the five districts.
7. The guiding principle in deciding how extensively to consult is that any person or organisation that might have a legitimate interest in the proposals under consideration, or who may be affected by those proposals, will have had the opportunity to express their views.
8. As the I.R.M.P. forms the Authority's strategic blue-print for the future, IRMP draft documents have been sent to:
 - Public libraries
 - Community Organisations
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Confederation of British Industry
 - Local authorities
 - Local Parish Councils
 - Public agencies
 - Other emergency service
 - Local Members of Parliament
 - Members of European Parliament
 - Members of Parliament with an interest
 - Communities and Local Government
 - Audit Commission
 - Representative Bodies
 - Hospital Chief Executives
 - Chief Fire Officers
 - Local Government Association
 - Universities
 - NHS Trust fire safety advisors
 - One Stop Shops
 - Fire Support Network

The Consultation Exercise on Merseyside

9. The Authority set a consultation period of 12 weeks (18th October 2007 to 10th January 2008) which is in line with Government recommendations which suggest a minimum period of 12 weeks.
10. In respect of consultation with specific groups as detailed in the O.D.P.M. Guidance (paragraph 7 above), the following action has been taken:-

10.1 The General Public, Council Tax Payers, Households etc.

- A press release was prepared and sent to all local press, radio and T.V.
- A full copy of the I.R.M.P. has been sent to every public library on Merseyside.
- Press notices were placed in, and an open letter sent, to all free newspapers on Merseyside inviting people to attend open meetings which were held at one fire station in each District Council area. This allowed the public the opportunity to express their views and seek any clarification.

10.2 Community Organisations, including Specific Community Groups such as Ethnic Minority and Other Often Excluded Groups

- Copies of the I.R.M.P. and Executive Summary were made available in other languages upon request.

10.3 Public Representatives, e.g. Members of Parliament

- A letter was sent to all Merseyside M.P.'s advising of the I.R.M.P. and process.

10.4 Business Organisations

- A letter has been sent to all Chambers of Commerce with copies of the I.R.M.P.
- Copies of the I.R.M.P. have been sent to the Confederation of British Industries, (Merseyside Office), the Ambulance Service Association and the Association of British Insurers the Federation of Small Businesses.

10.5 Local Authorities, Public Agencies and Other Emergency Services

- Each of the five District Councils.
- Copies of the I.R.M.P. have been sent to all North West Fire Services (Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Cheshire) and meetings are being held with officers from those Fire Services to discuss any issues arising.
- Copies of the I.R.M.P. have been sent to the Chief Constable, the Chief Executive of the Mersey Regional Ambulance Service, the Health & Safety Executive and the Local Government Association.

10.6 Employees (Uniformed & Non-Uniformed) and their Representatives

- An executive summary of the IRMP was sent to all employees.
- Full document to the Fire Brigades Union., Fire Officers Association., UNISON and other representative bodies

10.7 Central Government

- Copies have also been sent to Government Office North West.

10.8 Any Other Interested Parties

- Copies have been sent to the Audit Commission.

Results of the Consultation Process

The General Public

11. Public meeting were held at Kirkby, Liverpool City, Wallasey, St Helens and Southport.

Employees

12. All of the suggestions that were received from employees are contained within the amendments for consideration.

Representative Bodies

13. No responses to consultation were received from any of the representative bodies.

Equality & Diversity Implications

14. Each action in the IRMP will be subject to an individual equality impact assessment.

Financial Implications

15. The costs of consultation have been met from existing budgetary provisions.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (i) Report CFO/188/07, Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority 18th October 2007.
- (ii) Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority Integrated Risk Management Plan, Draft Consultation Document, October 2007
- (iii) Fire Authority Integrated Risk Management Planning "Guidance Note 2 - Consultation", O.D.P.M., 28th July 2003