

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO: Meeting of the	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE BUDGET AUTHORITY
DATE:	THURSDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2012
REPORT NO.	CFO/028/12
REPORTING OFFICER:	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	DEB APPLETON, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PLANNING. EXT. 4402
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	WM KELLAWAY, IRMP OFFICER. EXT. 4405
SUBJECT:	POST CONSULTATION REPORT IRMP 2012-15

APPENDIX (A)	TITLE	IRMP 2012/15
(B)	EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	

ATTACHED –HARD COPY

Purpose of Report

1. To report the outcomes of public consultation on the latest IRMP for all members of the Fire Authority to consider.
2. To seek approval for the publication of the final post consultation version of the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2012/15.

Recommendation

3. That Members;
 - (a) approve for publication, the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2012/15 which is to be published on 1st April 2012.
 - (b) Approve, that responses to consultation are adequately reflected within the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2012/15.

Executive Summary

Attached to this report is the statutorily required Integrated Risk Management Plan and the Action Plan. These documents have been developed as a result of collaboration and contribution from all directorates within Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and have been amended to reflect the outcomes of consultation with the public, representative bodies and stakeholders.

Subject to Authority approval the Integrated Risk Management Plan action plan will be added to the full Service Plan for release prior to the start of the financial year 2012/13.

The full document will be published via the internet before 1st April 2012.

Introduction & Background

4. It is a current statutory requirement of the Fire & Rescue Service National Framework 2008/11 to produce an IRMP and Action Plan. This document has been extended to stay in force until consultation is complete and the latest version is published.
5. The consultation process was completed and is reported within Appendix A IRMP 2012/15 document pages 56 and 57.

Equality & Diversity Implications

6. The IRMP for 2012/15 sees the introduction of Equality Objectives to meet our statutory responsibility under The Equality Act 2010. These objectives, rather than standing alone, are embedded fully within the Plan and focus on our core activities.
7. The proposed Integrated Risk Management Plan has undergone an assessment to establish any equality and diversity outcomes and actions. The equality impact assessment is attached Appendix B and it details the way in which the plan's objectives impact differently on the protected groups identified in the 2010 Equality Act. As a result of research by MFRS over a number of years it is recognised that some people and communities are more at risk than others and as such the IRMP includes actions that will impact more on some protected groups than others. For example:

Age

- a. Older people have been identified as more at risk from fire. As a result, prevention activity will continue to be targeted towards them.
- b. Middle aged men living alone have been identified as more at risk from fires. As a result, prevention activity will continue to be targeted towards them.

c. Younger men (16 – 20) are more at risk from road traffic collisions. As a result, prevention activity will continue to be targeted towards them.

d. Young people are more likely to be involved in fires related to anti social behaviour. As a result, prevention activity will continue to be targeted towards them.

Disability

e. People with disabilities have been identified as more at risk from fire occurring and in some cases, less able to escape when a fire does occur. We will work with disabled people to make them safe from the risk of fire.

Race

f. Some minority ethnic communities have been identified as being at greater risk from fire and where we identify this we will work with those communities to target prevention activity.

Religion and Belief

g. Religion and belief can place people at increased risk from hate crime and this can include the use of fire as a weapon. Our prevention and protection work with the Police and other partners helps people protect themselves and assists in the prevention of such crimes.

Sex

h. There is evidence that men are generally more at risk from fire and road traffic collisions we regularly analyse the fires in which people die and older women tend to be the highest risk group. As a result, prevention activity will continue to be targeted towards them.

Sexual Orientation

i. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and transsexual people can be at increased risk from hate crime and this might include the use of fire as a weapon. Our prevention and protection work with the Police and other partners helps people protect themselves and assists in the prevention of such crimes.

Socio-economic disadvantage

j. We have extensive business intelligence which shows that socio-economic disadvantage is a significant risk factor in relation to all types of fire and the ability to recover quickly from fire. As a result many of our prevention activities focus on those areas with the highest levels of deprivation.

Delivery of our plans will also incorporate understanding the best ways to engage with different communities and individuals to ensure that all emergencies receive the same high level of response.

We will also take into account the implications of our plans for different communities and individuals, including our staff.

8. An Equality Impact Assessment will also be completed for each of the planned actions in the plan prior to implementation.
9. The proposed changes to the document do not make any significant changes to the original Equality Impact Assessment.

Staff Implications

10. This report has no implications for staff. Any implications arising from the actions detailed in this report will be declared and dealt with as part of the delivery of these individual actions.

Legal Implications

11. This Report is the last stage of the process to fully discharge statutory duties placed upon the Fire and Rescue Authority to produce and publish an IRMP and Action Plan.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

12. The full financial implications will be established during the development of the proposed action plan and will be considered fully as part the budget setting process for 2012/2013.
13. Members should note that the financial section of the IRMP will be updated following the approval of the Authority's budget to ensure that it properly reflects the Authority's decision.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

14. This document details the strategic approach to risk management, encompassing what has been done to manage risk and what will be done in the coming three years.

Contribution to ****Our Mission – To Achieve; Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters****

15. The Integrated Risk Management Plan is the key document which enables Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service to manage our resources with full consideration of the impact on risk to life for the people of Merseyside. This document details the actions we intend to take to achieve our Mission.

16. Consultation on the new Mission and Aims was conducted alongside the consultation for the IRMP, no feedback or comments were received about the proposed amendments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/108/11 Community Engagement Forums with the Five Local Authority Areas of Merseyside

CFO/131/11 IRMP 2012/15 Consultation Document

CFO/129/11 Authority Purpose and Aims

CFO/027/12 IRMP Consultation Report

Revised Report approved by SMG 4th October and by Authority at Executive Leadership Board 4th October 2011. (Mission considered by Community Protection Committee 25th October 2011)

**Currently part of the IRMP 2012-2015 Consultation