

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY BUDGET MEETING
DATE:	26TH FEBRUARY 2009
REPORT NO.	CFO/058/09
REPORTING OFFICER:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	KEN PEEK, DIRECTOR IRMP, EXTN. 4301
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM
SUBJECT:	INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN - REPORT ON OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

APPENDIX	A	TITLE	CONSULTATION PLAN
	B		DISTRICT MANAGER'S IRMP
	C		CONSULTATION 2009
			IRMP 2 ACTION PLAN 3 RESPONSES
ATTACHED – HARD COPY			

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 3 for 2009/10 and the amendments arising for consideration.

Recommendations

2. This report recommends that:
 - (a) The contents of the report are noted;
 - (b) The results of the consultation process be published on the Authority's website;
 - (c) The Authority considers approval of the attached amendments to IRMP 2 Action Plan 3 for 2009/10 contained within Appendix A.

Introduction & Background

3. The Authority, at its meeting on 23rd October 2008, approved the draft IRMP Action Plan for public consultation. The consultation period commenced on 23rd October 2008 and concluded 12 weeks later on the on 16th January 2009.

Consultation Process

4. Detailed guidance on consultation on the IRMP 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 IRMP and in implementing the outcomes from that process.
5. We have provided hard copies and electronic access to the draft IRMP 2 Action Plan 2, 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 IRMP forms the Authority's strategic blue-print for the future, IRMP draft documents have been sent to:
 - Public Libraries
 - Community Organisations
 - Chambers of Commerce
 - Confederation of British Industry
 - Local Authorities
 - Public Agencies
 - Other Emergency Services
 - Local Members of Parliament
 - Audit Commission
 - Representative bodies
 - Hospital Chief Executives
 - LGA
 - NHS Trusts
 - One Stop Shops
 - Fire Support Network

The Consultation Exercise on Merseyside

9. The Authority set a consultation period of 12 weeks (23rd October 2008 to 16th January 2009) 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:-
 - (a) We immediately published the IRMP on the internet once it had been approved by the Authority.

- (b) We notified all employees through e mail, Hotline and the intranet and offered hard copies to any staff who wished to receive it.
- (c) We sent hard copies to around 200 interested parties, including other Fire Service, Partners, Representative Bodies and Local Organisations.
- (d) The Chief Fire Officer presented the IRMP to Merseyside Leaders Group and delivered feedback.
- (e) We sent an executive summary of the consultation document to all employees.
- (f) We used our advocates and Fire Support Network to contact the more hard to reach groups within our community.

The General Public

- 11. The consultation document was circulated to all that are listed in paragraph 8 above.
- 12. There were a number of observations made during the consultation period which have resulted in recommended changes to the draft IRMP.
 - (a) Appendix A shows the consultation plan employed during the 12 week consultation period;
 - (b) Appendix B shows the responses to presentations given by each District Manager which delivered wide ranging consultation to various stakeholder groups in their areas on IRMP2 Action Plan 3;
 - (c) Appendix C shows the responses received by other channels.
- 13. Copies were given to our District Managers to take to and present to the five district groups they sit on and provide feedback from those meetings as to how the IRMP fits in with LAAs.

Employees

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

Representative Bodies

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

Equality & Diversity Implications

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

Financial Implications & Value for Money

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

Health & Safety and Environmental Implications

18. Implications will be addressed by managers for all IRMP points as part of the assessment process.

Contribution to Achieving the Vision

“To Make Merseyside a Safer, Stronger, Healthier Community”

19. The IRMP is an integral part of our planning to make Merseyside a Safer, Stronger, Healthier Community.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Report CFO/233/08, Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority 23rd October 2008.
2. Fire Authority Integrated Risk Management Planning "Guidance Note 2 - Consultation", O.D.P.M., 28th July 2003.