

Our Ref: PH/TR

Your Ref:

Contact: CFO P Hancock

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Mr D Stephens
Chief Fire Officer
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
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Dear *Dan*

Thank you for sending through the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2017-20 for Merseyside, which we have read and considered.

Overall, we are supportive of the plan and I can see that a great deal of time and resources have been spent on developing the document and setting out the operational and sub-regional context. As a result the Service looks well-placed to tackle the many challenges it is facing.

In the current climate, when the Government is looking to the sector to work together in order to address joint issues and challenges we already have a strong base to build from in the North West but there is still more that we can do collectively. However, I would highlight our existing collaborations and joint-working across a number of areas, not least around resilience, prevention initiatives such as Safe and Well and supporting each other in other priority areas, such as diversity.

In terms of your over-arching approach to operational resources, the use of alternative duty systems to transform the way in which response and prevention services are delivered will be key in moving fire and rescue services forward.

Your proposals to maintain appliances with a small resilience factor during the day will clearly meet the both demands of response and prevention during identified busy activity periods. The model to reduce appliance numbers overnight, but still be able to recall the maximum number of appliances if required, will make the most effective and efficient use of resources during periods of lower activity.

We have considered your proposals in regard to the planned new stations and the impact of any duty system changes, particularly at the fire stations located around or close to our borders and we have not identified any significant issues related to the proposed changes.

While a number of issues, not least the proposed devolution of significant powers to an elected Mayor covering Liverpool city region will have implications for the way our two Authorities work together I am confident that we can continue to deliver excellent services to the public and support one another – this plan will help to achieve that.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul". The letters are cursive and connected.

Paul Hancock
Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
Chief Fire Officer, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service