

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY BUDGET MEETING		
DATE:	28 FEBRUARY 2019	REPORT NO:	CFO/010/19
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR:	DEB APPLETON
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM, IRMP OFFICER		
TITLE OF REPORT:	DRAFT 2019-21 IRMP SUPPLEMENT		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A: DRAFT 2019-21 IRMP SUPPLEMENT
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Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members approve the release of the draft 2019-21 Supplement to the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2017-20 for a period of 12 weeks' consultation prior to adoption and implementation, whilst noting that the proposals outlined within the IRMP may change to reflect the views expressed during the consultation process.

Recommendation

2. That Members approve the release of the draft 2019-21 Supplement to the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2017-20 for a period of 12 weeks' consultation prior to final approval, publication and implementation. The draft supplement can be found at Appendix 1 to this report.

Introduction and Background

3. The Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004 and the National Framework for England 2018 onwards, outline the legal requirements to produce an IRMP. The primary objective for this process is to make each Fire and Rescue Authority more responsive to locally identified risk and needs, and better able to deliver safer communities.
4. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA)'s IRMP is a medium term plan that captures future aspirations and the strategic direction for the Authority in order to deliver its Mission: "Safer Stronger Communities; Safe, Effective Firefighters".
5. The outcome of the 12 week consultation will be reported back to Authority following the consultation period. The draft 2019-21 Supplement to the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2017-20 contains the proposals being considered by the Authority in order meet the budget challenges it faces

whilst aspiring to continue to deliver an excellent Service to the residents of Merseyside.

6. This IRMP considers existing and emerging risk, demand and opportunities such as the ageing population of Merseyside, vulnerability to fire and other risks, impact of the Grenfell Tower fire, impact of fire and rescue service inspection, marine and weather-related incidents such as flooding, the increased risk of terrorism and addressing the reduction in staff available to deliver our services over a number of years that has particularly impacted on our resilience as a Service.
7. In general, our work to deliver against our IRMP has been progressing well and many of our objectives will remain the same during the life of this Supplement, but there are key areas that the Authority wishes to address between 2019-21 to improve public safety and reinvest in the services we provide. These areas are:

Resilience

The proposal to;

- Improve our emergency response and resilience by having up to 30 fire appliances available day and night (a combination of Wholetime and Retained). This is an increase on the 26 proposed in our original 2017-20 IRMP.
- We propose to achieve this increase in the number of fire engines from 26 (18 fire engines immediately available 24/7; 6 day crewed fire engines (immediately available during the day and on 30 minute recall at night); and 2 fully wholetime retained fire engines which are available on a 30 minute recall 24/7)
- to 30 by providing 20 appliances immediately available; 6 day crewed fire engines (immediately available during the day and on 30 minute recall at night); 3 fully wholetime retained fire engines which are available on a 30 minute recall 24/7 and 1 Search & Rescue fire appliance.
 - In practical terms this will mean that during the day we will have 27 (inc Search & Rescue appliance) immediately available fire appliances with a further 3 available within 30 minutes (for resilience purposes).

And

- 21 immediately available fire appliances (inc Search & Rescue appliance) during the night with a further 9 available within 30 minutes (for resilience purposes).

Introducing multiple fire engines at three stations – taking the best from all operational duty systems and combining them under a Hybrid Model. This approach will provide 2 fire engines during the day with 1 retained and 1 fire engine during the night with 2 retained. The Day Crewing Wholetime Retained stations identified for conversion to the Hybrid Model are Liverpool City, Wallasey and St Helens; identified based on response time performance.

The specific details on how this would work are captured later on in this supplement. The proposals are subject to public consultation and MFRA approval. The changes in St Helens would be subject to the move to the new station in Watson Street – so in reality they wouldn't take place for at least 12 months (current arrangements would remain in place during that period).

Protection

And the proposal to;

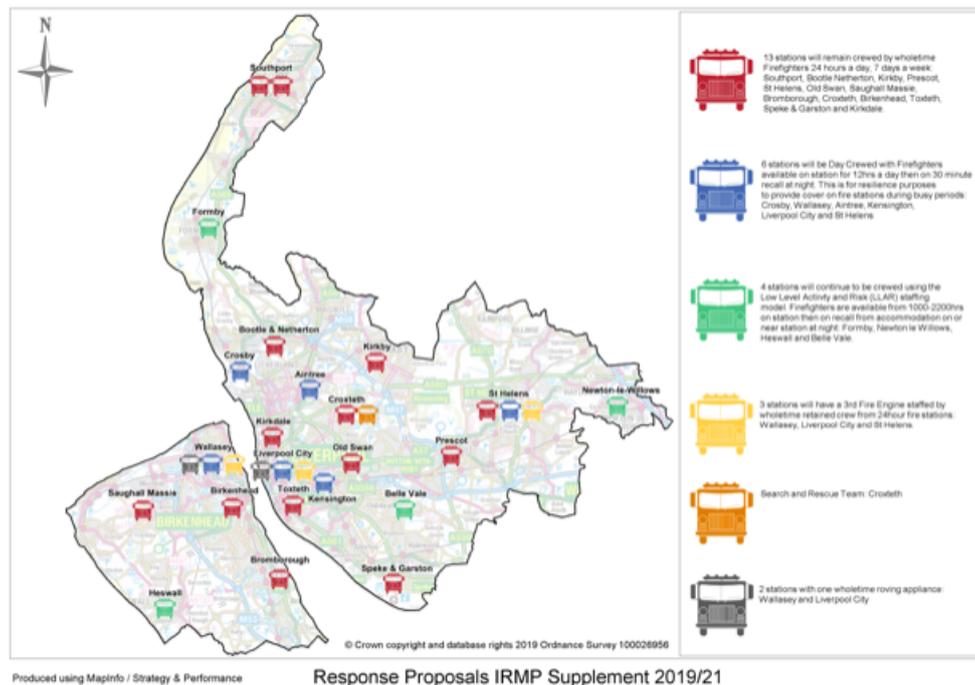
- Increase the Protection establishment by 5 Protection Officers
- Introduce a Fire Engineer role
- Support the development of a new management information system

Response

And the proposal to;

- Increase the number of Firefighter roles from 620 to 642 (plus 20 in training)
- Establish a ridership (number of firefighters on a fire engine) of 5 at key locations to ensure at least 9 personnel are available to respond to life risk incidents.
- Re-establish Crew Managers at key locations – with their continued use elsewhere as part of development pathway
- Enhance response to terrorist attack and marine/flood related incidents from Liverpool City and Wallasey fire stations respectively
- Maintain cover during the night time at Liverpool City and Wallasey based on the introduction of the Hybrid Model
- Re-distribute specialist appliances to align with the new model – and duty systems operated

- Utilise the appliances at Liverpool City and Wallasey to manage risk and demand across Merseyside dynamically, facilitate training and improve response and resilience during spate conditions.



The changes require the Authority to increase its Response and Protection budget by over £1m. The Chief Fire Officer has provided assurance to the Authority that he can achieve this without affecting frontline services and key functions.

MFRA will also establish a ridership (number of firefighters on a fire engine) of 5 at key locations and those hosting National Resilience assets which require specific modes of operation, and 4 elsewhere (this reflects the current realities – riding 5 remains a long term aspiration of the Service).

MFRA fully appreciates that it will take time to get to this new position so we will utilise budget underspend to pay off debt in order to release the revenue funding required to make it a sustainable long term plan.

In addition to the new and alternative proposals:

- MFRA will continue to recruit in significant numbers to meet future needs – people who live in Merseyside – recruited to reflect the communities we serve.

- MFRA can continue to staff the Combined Platform Ladder on a permanent basis.
- MFRA will build a new station in St Helens – on the basis of improved operational response.
- MFRA will complete the building of Saughall Massie to maximise our speed of response
- MFRA will commit £5m to redevelop our training facilities.

Which will ensure

- MFRA can use the increased capacity to support our aspiration around Emergency Medical Response
- MFRA is better equipped to respond to foreseeable and emerging risk
- MFRA can support the lateral development and progressive development of all our staff
- MFRA is responding immediately to the findings of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire & Rescue Services.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. An Equality Impact Assessment will be further developed with feedback from the 12 week consultation process.

Staff Implications

9. The IRMP will undoubtedly have implications for staff in relation to management structures, duty systems and ways of working.
10. As such, any implications arising from the proposals detailed within this report will be subject to ongoing dialogue with the representative bodies and staff themselves to ensure they have full sight on any changes which may impact on them directly.
11. The views of staff will be considered as part of the consultation process.
12. The implications to staff will be a key consideration in the implementation of the 2019-21 supplement – in line with the Authority's engagement principles.

Legal Implications

13. Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 places a statutory duty upon every Fire and Rescue Authority to put in place an IRMP having regard to the National Framework for England 2012. This report is the last stage of the process to fully discharge statutory duties placed upon the Authority to produce and publish an IRMP.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

14. The principles established during the public consultation forums undertaken by Opinion Research Services were used in the development of the 2017-20 IRMP and remain appropriate for the supplement which extends the 2017-20 IRMP. The new proposals are designed to address some of the impact of previous cuts in Government grant to maintain the high levels of service received by the Merseyside public and improve resilience.
15. No alternative proposals than those contained within the IRMP were suggested during the budget planning process that would allow the Authority to meet their obligations to set a balanced budget.

The 2019/20 – 2023/24 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), which will be considered elsewhere on today's Authority agenda, has built £1m plus into the future revenue budget to fund the additional investment required to deliver the proposals within the 2019 – 2021 IRMP supplement. Any variances to Government funding or other assumptions contained in the MTFP (costs, savings proposals or funding) may put the proposals at risk

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

16. The IRMP details the strategic approach to risk management, encompassing what has been done to manage risk and what will be done in the years to 2021.
17. Should these IRMP changes not be approved then the original plans would be implemented which could result in a higher level of risk being experienced by the public.

Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters*

18. The IRMP is the primary means by which the Authority sets out how it will prepare for and respond to risk within its communities.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS