

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	30 JANUARY 2025	REPORT NO:	CFO/76/24
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, PHIL GARRIGAN		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	DEB APPLETON	REPORT AUTHOR:	DEB APPLETON JACKIE SUTTON
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	IRMP 2021-24 FINAL UPDATE		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX 1: IRMP 2021-24 FINAL UPDATE APPENDIX 2: RESPONSE IRMP OUTCOMES APPENDIX 3: PREVENTION IRMP OUTCOMES APPENDIX 4: PROTECTION IRMP OUTCOMES APPENDIX 5: PREPAREDNESS IRMP OUTCOMES APPENDIX 6: NATIONAL RESILIENCE IRMP OUTCOMES APPENDIX 7: LJMU EVALUATION OF THE IRMP PROCESS APPENDIX 8: RISKTEC EVALUATION OF IRMP OUTCOMES
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Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members consider the outcomes from the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2021/24 presented in the attachments to this report.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members note the outcomes from the IRMP 2021/24.

Introduction and Background

3. The Authority published its IRMP 2021/24 in July 2021. The requirement to publish an IRMP is contained within the National Framework for Fire and Rescue Services 2018.

The requirement to produce an IRMP

4. The National Framework sets out the following requirements.

Each Integrated Risk Management Plan must:

- reflect up to date risk analyses including an assessment of all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the area of the authority;
 - demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to prevent fires and other incidents and mitigate the impact of identified risks on its communities, through authorities working either individually or collectively, in a way that makes best use of available resources;
 - outline required service delivery outcomes including the allocation of resources for the mitigation of risks;
 - set out its management strategy and risk-based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in accordance with the principles of better regulation set out in the Statutory Code of Compliance for Regulators, and the Enforcement Concordat;
 - cover at least a three-year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as it is necessary to ensure that the authority is able to deliver the requirements set out in this Framework;
 - reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners; and
 - be easily accessible and publicly available.
5. The Authority is fully compliant with these requirements.
 6. In addition, in April 2021 the National Standards Board for fire and rescue services published the Community Risk Management Planning Standard and following that, the NFCC published guidance for Community Risk Management Planning. Both of these relate to the National Framework requirement to produce an IRMP, although the terminology is different. Members will be aware that this terminology has been adopted for the new Community Risk Management Plan ('CRMP') 2024/27.
 7. Although the Standard was published during the period of public consultation on the IRMP 2021/24, MFRS was already broadly compliant with the Standard and changes made in the CRMP planning process have now provided further improvements.

Reporting on IRMP progress and outcomes

8. Members will be aware that regular update reports have been presented to the Authority during the duration of the IRMP. The final version of that update is attached at Appendix 1.
9. For this final report on the IRMP officers have also prepared outcome statements indicating the extent to which short, medium and long term outcome objectives have been achieved. These can be found at Appendices 2-6.

Evaluation and external scrutiny

10. IRMP evaluation reports have been commissioned by two external organisations. The first (attached at Appendix 7) is an evaluation by Liverpool John Moores University of the process the Service followed to produce the IRMP. It was completed in April 2023.

11. In its conclusion this evaluation states that:

“The MFRS IRMP appeared compliant with the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, the NFCC Competency Frameworks for Community Risk Management Planning guidelines, and the Fire Standards Board Community Risk Management Planning guidelines.

Stakeholders needs in terms of the local community, MFRS staff (in terms of safety / training), partner agencies (in terms of collaboration), and funders appeared to have been appropriately addressed.

A thorough and robust approach to risk identification, risk assessment, and risk management appeared to be present in the MFRS IRMP.”

12. The second evaluation, completed in November 2024 by Risktec looked specifically at the outcomes from the IRMP. This report (which is attached at Appendix 8) proposed a new approach to evaluation of IRMP/CRMP actions (and potentially other MFRS activities) in a way that is compliant with NFCC guidance. That process involves the creation of logic models which show on one page the inputs, outputs and outcomes related to MFRS priorities. MFRS has now adopted that model for the CRMP and the updates in Appendices 2-6 use this approach to demonstrate the outcomes from the IRMP 2021/24.

13. In the executive summary of their report, Risktec said:

“Risktec’s overall opinion is that the Service, having produced its own comprehensive picture of the context of Risk/Demands and Vulnerability and determined how well the current arrangements were working, are significantly underselling the scale and depth of its effectiveness. We found, through the development of the LOGIC Model, that the Actions are delivering more positive community safety outcomes in a way that makes a difference to the safety of people, buildings and places in Merseyside than it originally set out in the IRMP. These community safety outcomes will be realised over the short, medium and long-term but are already providing clear benefits to the Service and the community.”

14. Officers will incorporate recommendations from both evaluation reports into the delivery of the CRMP 2024/27 and the planning of future CRMPs.

HMICFRS feedback

15. In the 2021 inspection report HMICFRS said *“The service has an effective integrated risk management plan”*

“After assessing relevant risks, the service has recorded its findings in an easily understood integrated risk management plan. This plan describes how prevention, protection and response activity is being or will be effectively resourced to mitigate or reduce the risks and threats its communities face, now and in the future.”

16. *In 2023 they said; “The service has a detailed and effective risk management plan”.*

“The service uses an IRMP to assess risk at a local community level and record the findings. This plan describes how the service intends to use its prevention, protection and response activities to mitigate or reduce the risks and threats the community faces now and in the future. Information about previous incidents is analysed, and firefighters and equipment are aligned with demand and risk to make sure that the service’s emergency response is effective.”

Equality and Diversity Implications

17. An equality impact assessment was completed for the IRMP 2021/24 which was considered by the Authority in June 2021. The EIA for the new CRMP was considered by the Authority in October 2024.

Staff Implications

18. There are no staff implications resulting from this report. Any staff implications relating to the delivery of the IRMP have been dealt with through normal MFRS processes including reports to the Authority where appropriate.

Legal Implications

19. The requirement to produce an IRMP is part of the National Framework for Fire and Rescue Services 2018, which itself is a part of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

20. The only costs associated with this final report relate to the evaluations. The LJMU report was provided free of charge and the cost of the Risktec report was contained within existing budgets.

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

21. The IRMP is specifically about the management of risk and the outcomes from the IRMP should assure Members that the Service is identifying all foreseeable risk and putting in place actions to mitigate that risk. Health and Safety is a major consideration during that process.

Environmental Implications

22. Environmental matters were considered during the implementation of the IRMP 2021/24, but this position has been strengthened within the CRMP 2024/27 where a specific action relates to the achievement of Net Zero.

Contribution to Our Vision: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

23. The IRMP is one of the key documents that sets out how MFRA discharges its responsibilities in relation to the National Framework. Its entire focus is on reducing risk for the people of Merseyside.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA Merseyside **F**ire and **R**escue **A**uthority

MFRS Merseyside **F**ire and **R**escue **S**ervice