

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO: Meeting of the	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY POLICY AND RESOURCES
DATE:	30th JULY 2013
REPORT NO.	CFO/093/13
REPORTING OFFICER:	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	MRS D APPLETON, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PLANNING
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	
SUBJECT:	IRMP 2014-15

THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members consider whether it is necessary to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) supplement for 2014-15.

Recommendation

2. That Members;
 - a) Approve the recommendation not to produce an IRMP Supplement for 2014-15.

Introduction & Background

3. The production of an IRMP is a legislative requirement (Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004) and the National Framework details the requirement in the following way:

***“Each fire and rescue authority integrated risk management plan must:
be easily accessible and publicly available***

reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies, and partners

cover at least a three year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as it is necessary to ensure that fire and rescue authorities are able to deliver the requirements set out in this Framework

reflect up to date risk analyses and the evaluation of service delivery outcomes”

4. The Authority approved and published its three year Integrated Risk Management Plan 2013 – 16 on 27th June 2013 following twelve weeks consultation. Members will be aware that this was a departure from the way in which all previous IRMPs have been produced. In the past, the draft IRMP was published in October for twelve weeks consultation, with the final version being approved at the Budget Authority meeting in the following February. This process was amended for 2013-16 to account for the fact that the Authority’s government grant allocation for 2013/15 was not announced until December 2012. As the current IRMP sets out the main ways in which the Authority will deliver the cuts announced in December 2012, it was not possible to produce it prior to those cuts being announced.
5. In previous years, the Authority has produced a three year IRMP and then refreshed that three year plan each year, or published an IRMP supplement with updated information and a new action plan. In each case, twelve weeks consultation has taken place. This year, the preparation of an IRMP supplement (to be published in draft in October 2013) has been considered, to put the publishing cycle back “on track”.
6. However, it is proposed that this is not done on this occasion, for the following reasons;
 - a) The actions contained within IRMP 2013-16 represent some of the most significant changes to have taken place in MFRA for many years and it would be unrealistic to believe that the actions contained within the 20113-16 IRMP would be fully implemented within the period 2013-14. Notably;
 - The adoption of a 10 minute response standard and associated changes;
 - The reduction to 28 fire appliances and subsequent changes to the staffing model and associated changes;
 - Changes to shift systems
 - Potential mergers of stations
 - Changes to the Marine Rescue service
 - b) The IRMP 2013-16 consultation was only concluded on the 27th June 2013 prior to adoption by the Authority.
7. As a result of all the above, it is considered that producing a supplement would not be an effective use of time or resources and that any other actions or changes that

might be added in an IRMP supplement for 2014-15 would be minimal in comparison.

8. Members can be assured however that through the Performance and Scrutiny Committee's regular monitoring of the Service Delivery Plan, they will be kept informed of performance against Local Performance Indicators covering a range of operational, non-operational and community safety priorities and also of performance against the actions contained within the IRMP, Functional and Equality and Diversity Plans. A Service Delivery Plan will be produced for 2014/15, in the months leading up to March 2014 and this will deal with any new areas of focus that are required for that year. It is not anticipated however, that this would any need to include new major projects relating to fire cover, community risk or other operational areas.
9. Staff resources have reduced since the preparation of the current plan and the time saved by not preparing an IRMP supplement for 2014/15 will be put to good use in relation to implementing the current IRMP, preparing the Authority's first Statement of Assurance (another requirement of the Framework) and ensuring that any public consultation relating to potential station mergers is thorough and meaningful.

Equality & Diversity Implications

10. The current IRMP has been fully Equality Impact assessed and the Service has also recently completed its three year Equality and Diversity Priorities Action Plan. It is not considered that there are any other equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

Staff Implications

11. If approved, staff time will be available to complete other major pieces of work as described above.

Legal Implications

12. It is considered that the Authority is complying with its legal obligations with regards to the National Framework by having published a three year plan. Should any major new and unanticipated issues arise that need to be included within an IRMP a supplement can be produced if required.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

13. It is considered that to produce an IRMP supplement for 2014-15 would not be an effective use of reduced resources, as all major current issues are included within the 2013-16 IRMP.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

14. The IRMP is particularly focused on community risk and incorporates health and safety. It is considered that the current IRMP 2013-16, deals with these matters adequately.

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

15. The IRMP is the main Authority document that guides the activity of MFRS and explains to the public how MFRA meets its legal obligations with regards to the National Framework.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

List any supporting documents/evidence here

***Glossary of Terms**

Please list any acronyms used within this Report and appendices, including their meaning.