

Division(s):

PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 SEPTEMBER

OXFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN – DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2014-15

Report by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Introduction

1. This report proposes a number of projects to be included within the Fire Authority's Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) draft action plan for the fiscal year 2014-15. The proposals summarise areas where the Service's Senior Leadership Team believe service improvements may be achieved. The proposals (in some instances) also take into account views from staff within Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service following a period of initial consultation in July 2013. To meet the requirements of the CRMP process, each proposal will be supported by evidence, validating both their inclusion and their contribution to improved community engagement and community/firefighter safety. Similarly, each proposal recognises the prevailing economic constraints.
2. These proposals, if approved by Performance Scrutiny Committee, will be adopted in the final version of the CRMP Action Plan 2014-15 subject to further wide ranging consultation & final Cabinet approval. Each project will be subject to close monitoring, reviewed every quarter and reported to the Cabinet Member responsible for Policy Coordination.
3. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 received Royal Assent on 22 July 2004. Part 3, Chapter 21 of this legislation requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Fire and Rescue National Framework to which Fire Authorities must have regard when discharging their functions.
4. The Secretary of State published the latest Fire and Rescue National Framework in July 2012. The new Framework has an open-ended duration which gives fire and rescue authorities greater certainty with the high level, strategic nature of the Framework meaning that it should remain unchanged for the medium to long term. The Framework recognises the proficiency and experience of fire and rescue authorities and gives them the freedom and flexibility to deliver services to their communities without prescription from Whitehall. Its intention is to move accountability away from central government and place power in the hands of local communities. Key priorities for fire and rescue authorities in the new framework include:
 - identifying and assessing the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their area faces

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- making provision for prevention and protection activities and responding to incidents appropriately
- working in partnership with their communities and a wide range of partners locally and nationally to deliver their service; and
- being accountable to communities for the service they provide.
- The Framework enables fire and rescue authorities to efficiently deliver their services against a backdrop of change and the need to cut the national deficit.

In addition the Framework clearly defines national resilience setting out clear roles and responsibilities as well as setting out arrangements for fire and rescue authorities to collectively engage with government on national resilience issues through a new Fire and Rescue Strategic Resilience Board. The Board will enable a collaborative approach to national resilience that is based on and drawn from local capability, expertise, knowledge and leadership.

5. The new Fire and Rescue National Framework requires each Fire and Rescue Authority to produce a publicly available Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), (in the case of Oxfordshire CRMP) covering at least a three-year time span which:
 - Demonstrates how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to mitigate the impact of risk on communities, through authorities working either individually or collectively, in a cost effective way
 - Sets 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.
 - Is easily accessible and publicly available
 - reflects effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies, and partners
 - Is 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
 - Reflects up to date risk analyses and the evaluation of service delivery outcomes
6. Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority published its strategic CRMP in April 2013 providing the strategic direction for the next five years. This document is subjected to annual review and will be updated and amended as required.
7. The projects that have been proposed for the action plan 2014-15 will be subject to consultation for 12 weeks starting on the 10th October 2013.

During this period, Oxfordshire Fire Authority will consult with neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services, partner organisations such as the Highways Agency and the Environment Agency, the Fire Brigades Union, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue staff (uniformed and non-uniformed) and members of the public.

8. Senior Management from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service will respond to the comments made during the consultation period and the responses will be made available to Cabinet in the final report in 2014 and published on the internet for public access.
9. The following items summarise the projects for inclusion in the CRMP Action Plan for the fiscal year 2014-15:
 - Review of Prevention, Protection and Response Resources associated with Oxford City, Cherwell, West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse district areas, in order to meet their growing and/or changing risk profiles as part of the overall county risk profile.
 - Review our Aerial Appliance Capability and implement any changes to our fleet and/or staffing supported by that review in conjunction with the district risk profile review.
 - Review of Light Response Vehicle Capability and implement changes to our fleet and/or staffing supported by that review in conjunction with the district risk profile review.
 - Implement the Training Collaboration Review carried out in 2013 to further support fire-fighter safety and the 'On-Call' duty system.

These proposals, if approved by the Performance Scrutiny Committee, will be adopted in the final version of the CRMP Action Plan 2014-15 subject to further wide ranging consultation & final Cabinet approval. Each project will be subject to close monitoring, reviewed every quarter and reported to the Cabinet Member responsible for Policy Coordination.

Financial and Staff Implications

10. Each project will be budgeted and will fully recognise the prevailing economic constraints, delivering efficiencies or allowing existing/additional services to be delivered more effectively.

RECOMMENDATION

11. **The Performance Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**

Endorse the proposed projects to be included for further consultation in the draft CRMP Action Plan 2014-15.

Nathan Travis
Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Background papers:

National Framework document for the Fire and Rescue Service
Oxfordshire Fire Authority Integrated Risk Management Plan 2013-18

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