

PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 25 SEPTEMBER 2014

COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (CRMP) OXFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2015-16

Report by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer – Fire & Rescue Service

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 2015-16. The proposals summarise areas where the Service's Senior Leadership Team believe service improvements and /or greater value to the wider OCC corporate priorities may be achieved. 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 outcomes and community/firefighter safety. Similarly, each proposal recognises the prevailing economic constraints.
2. These proposals, if approved by the Performance Scrutiny Committee, will be adopted in the draft version of the CRMP Action Plan 2015-16 and will be subject to wide ranging consultation.
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
 - 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 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. In June 2014 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued a Fire and Rescue Bulletin (No. 46) outlining that the only requirements in relation to integrated risk management planning were those set out in the National Framework.

The Department has no plans to develop or publish further guidance in relation to the integrated risk management planning process. The Department's expectation is that the leadership of any further work to identify and/or share good practice on developing or delivering integrated risk management plans will be taken forward by the fire sector, either individually or collectively.

7. Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority published its strategic CRMP in April 2013 providing the strategic direction up to 2018. This document is subjected to annual review and will be updated and amended as required.
8. The projects that have been proposed for the action plan 2015-16 will be subject to consultation for 12 weeks starting on the 10th October 2014. During this period, Oxfordshire Fire Authority will consult with elected members, neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services, partner organisations such as the Highways Agency and the Environment Agency, the Fire Brigades Union, all Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue staff and members of the public.
9. 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 2015 and published on the internet for public access.
10. There is little doubt that Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has transformed itself from an organisation that just deals with fire response to one that also covers preventative and wider rescue work and, as a consequence, we have succeeded in reducing incidents dramatically over the years. The proposed projects for the CRMP Action Plan 2015-16 reflect the changing nature of risk and demand within the county and recognises the wider role that OFRS will need to continue to undertake in the future.
11. The following items summarise the projects for inclusion in the CRMP Action Plan for the fiscal year 2015-16:

Project 1: Implement Emergency Medical Support Services in collaboration with South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS).

Responsible Manager: Area Manager - Operations and Resilience

Project 2: Review adverse weather resilience arrangements with emergency planning team and partners.

Responsible Manager: Area Manager - Strategic Risk and Planning

Project 3: Trial emergency cover review recommendations in the Carterton area.

Responsible Manager: Area Manager - Operations and Resilience

Project 4: Identify opportunities to work with partners to improve health, safety & wellbeing in local communities.

Responsible Manager: Area Manager - Community Risk

These proposals, if approved by the Cabinet Member for Fire Service and Corporate Plan, will be adopted in the draft version of the CRMP Action Plan 2015-16 and will be subject to wide ranging consultation & scrutiny.

Financial and Staff Implications

12. 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.

Equalities Implications

13. A Service and Community Impact Assessment has been undertaken with regards to the proposed projects. This does not identify any issues with regards to equality.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Approve the proposed projects to be included for further consultation in the draft CRMP Action Plan 2015-16.

Approve for the Chief Fire Officer to report back to Cabinet following consultation.

DAVID ETHERIDGE
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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