

**SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
8 NOVEMBER 2010**

**OXFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY DRAFT
INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN 2011-12 (IRMP)**

Report by Chief Fire Officer

Introduction

1. This report proposes a number of projects to be included within the Fire & Rescue Authority's Integrated Risk Management Action Plan (IRMP) for the fiscal year 2011-12. The proposals summarise areas where the Service's Senior Leadership Team believe service improvements may be achieved. To meet the requirements of the IRMP process, each proposal is supported by robust 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, which will be amended as necessary following the public consultation process, and subsequently approved by the Cabinet, will be adopted in the final version of the IRMP Action Plan 2011-12. The projects will be monitored through established performance management systems, reviewed every quarter and reported to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (currently Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities).
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 initially published the latest Fire and Rescue National Framework in May 2008. The purpose of the Framework was to provide strategic direction from central government whilst ensuring that authorities continue to make local decisions. The Framework set out the government's objectives for the Fire and Rescue Service and what fire and rescue authorities should do to achieve these objectives. More recently, Ministers have stated that the 2008/11 National Framework remains in force, but the Minister responsible for Fire and Rescue matters no longer expects to enforce the following aspects of it: regional management boards, equality and diversity, workforce development and asset management. The Minister made clear that the use of Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) will continue to determine the need for and allocation of local fire prevention, protection and response resource to allow local decisions to be made by practitioners and elected members on the basis of locally assessed risks and circumstances.

5. The 2008-11 Fire and Rescue National Framework requires each Fire and Rescue Authority to produce a publicly available IRMP covering at least a three-year time span which:
 - is regularly reviewed and revised and reflects up-to-date risk information and evaluation of service delivery outcomes;
 - has regard to the risk analyses completed by Local and Regional Resilience Forums including those reported in external Community Risk Registers (CRRs) and internal risk registers, to ensure that civil and terrorist contingencies are captured in their IRMP;
 - reflects effective consultation during its development and at all review stages with representatives of all sections of the community and stakeholders;
 - demonstrates how prevention, protection and response activities will be best used to mitigate the impact of risk on communities in a cost effective way;
 - provides details of how Fire and Rescue Authorities deliver their objectives and meet the needs of communities through working with partners;
 - has undergone an effective equality impact assessment process.
6. Fire and Rescue Authorities should review the effectiveness of 'cross-border' integration arrangements with neighbouring authorities and set these out appropriately in their IRMPs.
7. Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority published its strategic IRMP in April 2008 providing the strategic direction for the next five years. This document is subjected to annual review and updated and amended as required. The current strategic IRMP requires no amendment for the fiscal year 2011-12 and will be refreshed as a new five year strategic document for the fiscal year 2013-14.
8. The projects that have been proposed for the action plan 2011-12 will be subject to consultation for 12 weeks starting on 15 November 2010. During this period, Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue 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.
9. The 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 the Cabinet in the final report in 2011 and published on the internet for public access.
10. The following list summarises the projects for inclusion in the IRMP Action Plan for the fiscal year 2011-12:

- **Project 1: To permanently remove the 2nd appliance from Faringdon from the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS) fleet.***

Responsible Officer – Service Delivery Manager

**Originally in 2007/08 IRMP – Project 6 Fire Cover Resilience: Review of the second fire engine availability at Faringdon. Appliance was removed from Faringdon in April 2009.*

Objective: To permanently remove the 2nd Fire Appliance from Faringdon from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service fleet, reducing the fire appliance fleet provided by OFRS from 35 to 34.

- **Project 2: To complete the review and commence implementation of the outcome of Project 2 from the 2010/11 IRMP - Special Appliance review, including aerial rescue appliances and specialist rescue capability*.**

Responsible Officer – Emergency Response Manager

** Where the outcomes of the review will require further consultation, these will be included in the 2012/13 IRMP. Those areas that can be implemented within normal managerial delegation will be acted upon as appropriate.*

Objective: To review the specialist appliances within Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, looking in particular at locations and crewing arrangements. Identifying and delivering ongoing effective working arrangements with neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services under revised mutual agreements to secure the effective provision of specialist appliances.

- **Project 3: To review and further extend existing Safeguarding measures throughout OFRS.**

Responsible Officer – Risk Reduction Manager

Objective: For all Fire and Rescue Service individuals and functions working with and/or having contact with adults/children who are at particular risk of harm as a result of abuse or neglect, to be able to identify at risk individuals, then work in partnership within a multi-agency framework to secure the wellbeing, security and safety of the vulnerable person.

- **Project 4: To develop and implement a strategy to ensure that protection and prevention activities are targeted at those personnel and properties most at risk from fire, particularly in locations remote from early Fire Service intervention in the event of an emergency.**

Responsible Officer – Risk Reduction Manager

Objective: To ensure that resources are dedicated to protecting remote communities, working with the local community on self-help projects to support vulnerable people through the training of Community Fire Safety Advocates.

- **Project 5: To develop the role of Retained Station Support Officers to work as local community advocates to be fully involved in developing and supporting local initiatives in conjunction with local people, delivering the county council’s localities agenda through engagement with youth services, education, and healthcare providers.**

Responsible Officer – Service Delivery Performance Manager

Objective: To use a recognised and trusted role model to assist in delivering local initiatives on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and other interested parties for the good of the local community.

- **Project 6: In light of the Oxfordshire County Council Business Strategy and the emerging financial situation, continue the 2010/11 IRMP project 6* – (“Review the current provision of Fire Appliances to ensure operational resilience and value for money”) to ensure continued cost effective, resilient service provision*.**

Responsible Officers – Service Delivery Manager

**Is not likely to be concluded in 2010/11 due to changes in national priorities – continuation for 2011/12.*

Objective: To review the current provision of fire appliances to ensure operational resilience and value for money.

Financial and Staff Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION

12. **The Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**
- (a) note the proposed projects to be included for consultation in the draft IRMP Action Plan 2011-12;**
 - (b) conduct a brief debate, with a view to putting forward a response to the consultation in due course;**
 - (c) encourage other members to take part in the consultation process.**

DAVID ETHERIDGE
Chief Fire Officer

Background papers: National Framework document for the Fire and Rescue Service
Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Authority Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008-12
The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008-11.

Contact Officer: Nigel Wilson, Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Tel: (01865) 855206

October 2010