

SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 NOVEMBER 2012

INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRMP) OXFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY - DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2013-14 AND UPDATE ON NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Report by the Chief Fire Officer

Introduction

1. This report proposes a number of projects to be included within the Fire Authority's Integrated Risk Management Action Plan (IRMP) for the fiscal year 2013-14. 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 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 the Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities, will be adopted in the final version of the IRMP Action Plan 2013-14 subject to further consultation & scrutiny. Each project will be subject to close monitoring, reviewed every quarter and reported to the Cabinet Member responsible 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 published the latest Fire and Rescue National Framework in July 2012. The purpose of the Framework is 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. The 2012 National Framework has changed the focus of national priorities away from areas such as Regional Management Boards, Equality and Diversity, Workforce Development and Asset management and moved, instead, towards the demonstration and delivery of FRS strategies for prevention, protection and response, which includes the publication of key performance data, such as response standards – as part of the wider public sector accountability and transparency agenda. There is also a strong focus on maintaining and developing national resilience assets which can be called upon for major incidents or terrorist attacks anywhere in the country – as well as improving

the working relationships with neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services (Intraoperability) and other emergency services (Interoperability). Having said this, the latest version of the Framework document also continues to make clear that the use of Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) will still be the key tool to determine the need for and allocation of local fire prevention, protection and response resources - to allow local decisions to be made by practitioners and elected members on the basis of locally assessed risks and circumstances.

5. The 2012 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. Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority is in the process of publishing its latest strategic IRMP in April 2013 providing the strategic direction for the next five years. This document will be subject to annual review and updated and amended as required. This draft annual action plan 2013-14 will be the first one to be linked to the new strategic IRMP.
7. The projects that have been proposed for the action plan 2013-14 will be subject to consultation for 12 weeks starting on the 12th November 2012. 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.
8. The Senior Management team 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 2013 and published on the internet for public access.
9. The following items summarise the projects for inclusion in the IRMP Action Plan for the fiscal year 2013-14:

- **Project 1: Implement the Service's Road Safety strategy as an integral part of its prevention and protection activities**

Responsible Manager: Area Manager – Safety

Objective: Now that the County Council's Road Safety Team have moved into the Fire and Rescue Service, there is a need to develop and integrate their education programmes, initiatives and resources within the wider established home and commercial safety work activities of the Service.

Outcome: To provide an improved and targeted range of safety services for Oxfordshire residents, businesses and commuters, which continues to drive down accidents and injuries in the home, at work and on the roads.

- **Project 2: Implement opportunities for technological advancements - following a review of fleet, equipment and working practices - to further support and enhance public and firefighter safety**

Responsible Manager: Area Manager - Service Support

Objective: Following recent firefighter fatalities in both warehouse and high rise building fires – coupled with the continuing need to drive down the number and severity of accidents and injuries across the county's homes, at work and on our roads, the research and implementation of new equipment and approaches is seen as a key driver to help continually improving our service provision.

Outcome: To continue to reduce the number and severity of injuries to both the public and firefighters, as well as reduce the damage to property from fires and other emergencies.

- **Project 3: Review and revise the Service's Learning and Development strategy to further support and enhance public and firefighter safety**

Responsible Manager: Area Manager - Service Support

Objective: As the scope of the Service's response to emergencies expands to incorporate more specialist rescue activities as well as becoming more complex as a result of the latest developments in both building and vehicle design / construction, the need to keep firefighters appropriately equipped and trained is paramount.

Outcome: To continue to provide 'fit-for-purpose' training for our firefighters, based on the emergency incidents they are expected to respond to.

- **Project 4: Deliver the Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) programme**

Responsible Manager: Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Objective: With both Fire & Rescue Authorities' (Oxfordshire and Royal Berkshire) decisions to formally collaborate on the creation of a combined Control Service being agreed, the programme to deliver it by April 2014 needs to be undertaken

Outcome: To provide the new Service in line with the programme delivery plan and expectations, in partnership with Royal Berkshire FRA.

- **Project 5: Implement further collaborative opportunities with other Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum (TVLRF) Category 1 & 2 responders and align working practices to improve our provision of multi-agency prevention, protection and response services**

Responsible Manager: Area Manager - Operations and Resilience

Objective: Developing on from the success of the collaborative working and pre-planning in the run-up to and during the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, capitalise on the networks, training and agreed joint-working activities to further improve our service provision, particularly in relation to major incidents.

Outcome: To develop and make use of a framework for on-going service improvements in the context of the working with neighbouring Fire & Rescue Services as well as other key local partners, as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act (2004).

- **Project 6: Review and revise the Service's strategy for the effective management of operational incidents in order to further support and enhance public and firefighter safety**

Responsible Manager: Area Manager - Operations and Resilience

Objective: Following on from the Service's 2012/13 IRMP project relating to incident command and worse case planning assumptions, there is a need to incorporate the research and findings into the Service's new ways of working, taking into account the outcomes of this action plan's Projects 2,3,4 & 5.

Outcome: The operational and safety aspects of emergency response will continue to improve, even against the backdrop of increasing scope and complexity.

Financial and Staff Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION

11. The Scrutiny Committee is asked to endorse the project options highlighted in the 2013-2014 IRMP Action Plan and support full public consultation on the proposals

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