

2011/12 IRMP Draft Action Plan

Recommendation 1: - Technical Fire Safety Review

Technical Fire Safety (TFS) takes the key role in management and enforcement of fire safety regulations for non-domestic premises through audit, provision of advice and working with the responsible persons(s) to make improvements where necessary.

A comprehensive TFS review conducted by a specialist consultancy firm (FARMSS) in 2008 suggested a number of areas for consideration. The outputs from this review were developed into a “Way Forward” plan and associated actions have since been implemented by Service Delivery.

Recommendation 1: -

During 2011/12 we will conduct a review of the impact of the recent changes in Technical Fire Safety arrangements to ensure that the anticipated benefits are being fully realised.

Recommendation 2: - Community Safety

The Service is committed to improving the safety of communities in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, particularly those most at risk. We are currently engaged in a wide range of community safety activities across both counties. This recommendation proposes a comprehensive review of the resources allocated to this work, and the evidence available to the Service on the impact and outcomes of these activities. It is anticipated that this review will inform the future focus of community safety activity and will optimise the Service’s use of its resources to reduce risk in its communities.

Recommendation 2: -

We will review the allocation of our community safety resources to ensure the best fit of activities to risk. This will maximise our ability to reduce risk in our communities.

Recommendation 3: - Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA) Strategy

The Service attends over 2700 calls a year to automatic fire alarms (AFA) that turn out to be false alarms; this is approximately one third of all calls to the Service.

There has been a percentage decrease in overall AFA calls over the past four years of just under 4%. For four years in a row the percentage of AFA calls that turned out to be fires has not exceeded 3%.

Of all AFA calls over the last four years, only 0.125 % actually required any fire fighting actions with the majority of AFA calls that were classed as actual fires, being extinguished prior to the arrival of the Fire Service.

50 premises are responsible for 40% of all repeat AFA calls within the two counties.

Recommendation 3: -

We will reduce our attendance at AFAs through a review of our policies and procedures and the implementation of our findings.

Recommendation 4: - Review of Fire Cover and Response Arrangements

The Service has a duty to deliver its services in the most cost effective way using the resources that it has available. Over three quarters of our annual operating budget is used to meet employee and fleet related costs. It is essential that we continue to review the level of resources required to provide fire cover, whilst rigorously ensuring the provision of an adequate emergency response.

Recommendation 4: -

We will review our fire cover and response arrangements with a focus on:-

- **The requirement for a third appliance at Hereford, Worcester and Redditch.**
- **The current crewing arrangements at Bromsgrove.**
- **The appropriate number of personnel on each watch at wholetime and day crewed stations.**

Recommendation 5: - Property

There are a number of Service buildings currently under review, a process which includes consideration of the potential for new stations, station refurbishments, strategic training facilities and ongoing maintenance demands.

In order to prioritise investment within an environment of increasingly constrained funding, it is essential that our property strategy is fully integrated with, and driven by future Service activity. This will include consideration of operational risk, firefighter competence and establishment numbers and deployment.

Recommendation 5: -

We will ensure our Property Strategy is fully aligned to our IRMP proposals including Recommendation No.4 and other aspects of Service Delivery, such as the provision of effective operational training.

Recommendation 6: - Provision of Operational Training and Development

The Training and Development (T&D) department provides direction for the delivery of training so that staff are competent for the risks they face, ensuring that the Service's legal responsibilities are met with particular regard to the safe person concept.

This recommendation proposes a comprehensive review of our training and development provision including a reassessment of the balance of training delivered between the training centre and operational units and a reappraisal of our NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) and ADC (Assessment and Development Centre) policies and processes.

Recommendation 6: -

We will consider our current operational training strategy and provision to identify any potential for improvement in both effectiveness and efficiency, and implement any appropriate changes.

Recommendation 7:- Environment and Sustainability

Protecting the environment and mitigating the impacts of climate change is a significant concern for our communities. The Service recognises that it has a part to play in preserving the natural environment. We recognise that the operations and activities we carry out have the potential to impact on the environment and we are committed to improving our environmental performance.

Within this context the Service needs to reduce its energy consumption, as well as reduce costs such as heating, lighting, water and fuel. There are potential new ways of working and technology that are under utilised; therefore a clear integrated approach including cultural change would be needed.

Recommendation 7: -

We will review our approach to environmental issues to ensure that we are maximising the potential partnership working in this area, reducing our energy usage and identifying further opportunities for cost efficiency.