

## **12. IRMP 2011/12 Update - Review of the Community Safety Department**

### **Purpose of report**

1. To inform the Policy and Resources Committee of the outcomes of the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2011/12 Objective No. 2, the Review of the Community Safety Department.

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### **Recommendation**

***The Chief Fire Officer recommends that the report is noted.***

### **Introduction and Background**

2. As part of the IRMP process, the 2011/12 annual action plan set out priorities for that financial year.
3. Objective 2 of that plan states;

#### ***Allocation of Community Safety Resources***

***“We will review the allocation of our Community Safety resources to ensure best fit of activities to risk. This will maximise our ability to reduce risk in our communities”***

4. Prevention activity is a statutory obligation for the Service under the Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004. National guidance confirms that prevention is at the heart of each Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) and each FRS has the autonomy to conduct community safety work as they see fit. However, each FRS must ensure that their prevention activities are based on a targeted approach to reducing the risks identified within the Service area.
5. The purpose of the IRMP review was to evaluate relevant data and information, sourced both locally and nationally, in order to determine the impact and effectiveness of the work currently carried out by the Community Safety Department and how best to allocate resources in the future, in recognition of an ever changing risk profile.

6. The following analysis was conducted:
  1. A review of National Guidance.
  2. A review of the Service's Community Safety activities and current resource deployment.
  3. Summary of existing and predicted demographical information.
  4. Summary of known "at risk" groups and order of priority ranking.
  5. A profile of operational activity.
7. The above information was analysed in order to provide an up to date and accurate community risk profile for the counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire. It is anticipated that this profile will be utilised, both now and in the future, to accurately predict specific communities and households which present the highest risk of accidental fire and other hazards. This revised approach will ensure that the Service is always "evidence led" in its community safety activities in future, therefore ensuring the best possible use of valuable resources and delivery of high quality prevention services to local communities.
8. In line with the Chief Fire Officer's delegated responsibilities a number of recommendations have already been presented to the Service's Senior Management Board (SMB) for consideration and a final decision, as not to have done so would have unnecessarily delayed obvious areas for improvement. Examples include: the procurement of Pinpoint risk identification software, targeted approach to schools' education and the review of the Community Safety Administration.

### **Community Safety Department Overview**

9. The Service hosts its own Community Safety Department, based at Service Headquarters in Worcester, and delivers safety activities across both Herefordshire and Worcestershire.
10. The department's structure is based on previous priorities and past projects and has evolved over a number of years.

### **Review Outcome**

11. As a result of the IRMP Review of Community Safety, a comprehensive three part report was considered by SMB in December 2011 and approved in full for implementation (see Appendix 1). The report identifies 48 specific recommendations which are designed to fundamentally change the way in which the Service delivers Community Safety in the future. The report has identified that all community safety work should be "evidence led" and that the following areas of work should, in future, be the Service's main focus in order to reduce risk in the community:
  - Accidental Dwelling Fires
  - Road Safety
  - Arson Reduction
  - Elderly and Vulnerable People

12. Implementation of the report's recommendations will ensure best use of the resources the Service has available to target a reduction of risk to the community. It will also realise savings of approximately £280,000 year on year achieved through changes to both the staffing of the department and reductions to the non-pay budget.

### Financial Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are financial issues that require consideration	Yes	Section 1.37 (Appendix 1)

### Legal Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are legal issues e.g. contractual and procurement, reputational issues that require consideration	No	

### Additional Considerations

13. The table below sets out any additional issues arising from the proposals contained in this report and identifies the relevant paragraphs in the report where such issues are addressed.

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
<b>Resources</b> (e.g. Assets, ICT, Human Resources, Training & Development, Sustainability).	Yes	
<b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	Yes	
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	No	
<b>Consultation with Representative Bodies</b>	Complete	

## **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1 – IRMP Recommendation 2 Report, Community Safety Review, Part 1

Background Papers - IRMP Recommendation 2 Report, Community Safety Review, Parts 2 and 3

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