

## **Report of the Chief Fire Officer**

### **6. Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. To present the details of the draft Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020, and to gain authorisation for public consultation.
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#### **Recommendation**

***It is recommended that the draft Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020 be approved for consultation.***

#### **Introduction and Background**

2. All Fire and Rescue Authorities are required to publish a plan setting out how they identify, assess and mitigate fire and rescue related risk. The plan needs to show how prevention, protection and response activities will mitigate the impact of risk on communities in a cost effective way. It must also make provision for responding to incidents, such as fires, road traffic accidents and emergencies within and beyond the local area. Further guidance is set out in the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England published by Government in 2012.
3. The Authority's last Integrated Risk Management Plan was published in 2009 and covered the period 2009-2012. The new plan is called the Community Risk Management Plan 2020 ('the CRMP') and incorporates a review of fire and emergency cover (response) arrangements. The review will assist the Authority to make decisions about how further savings can be achieved.

#### **Financial Context**

4. Members will be aware of the scale of the financial issues facing the Authority. Over the coming years there is a growing gap between the budget needed to deliver the current range of services and what will be available.
5. The latest figures available estimate that the budget gap will be £4.7m by 2016/17. With £2.5m revenue savings already made since 2011-12, this will bring the total reduction in the annual revenue budget to £7.2 million.

6. The scale of savings needed will have an impact on services. It is clear that all parts of the Service will have to take a share, from more cuts to back office support services and prevention and protection services through to the frontline response services – our firefighters, fire engines and fire stations. Some £2 million worth of further savings have been identified away from frontline services (mostly through further internal efficiencies and management reductions) but that still leaves a gap of £2.7 million.
7. With such substantial savings to be found, the CRMP sets out how the Service can balance its available resources against its assessment of risk, while also maintaining an effective fire and emergency response service across the two counties and with the least impact on communities.

### **CRMP Process**

8. The CRMP is organised into five main sections plus related appendices. In summary, these sections cover the following:
  - a. context: this provides an overview of the general influences and pressures facing the two counties, and in particular the financial issues facing the Authority;
  - b. understanding risk: this sets out how the Service identifies, assesses and manages risk;
  - c. tackling risk: this describes how services will be organised to tackle risks over the coming years;
  - d. delivering our services: this section considers what changes need to be made in view of changing levels of risk and in the light of reduced resources. It presents proposals to reduce the level of fire and emergency cover, using analysis and professional judgement to minimise the impact on the community and the Service as a whole; and
  - e. outcomes for 2020: this sets out a number of outcomes that will help to guide the Service towards delivering effective, efficient and sustainable services into the future.
9. There is also a set of consultation questions, which are designed to encourage comments on the general issues raised in each section of the Plan and, in particular, any specific views and local perspectives on proposals to find savings from frontline response services.

### **Consultation**

10. It is proposed that the CRMP be issued for public consultation for a period of 12 weeks, subject to approval by the Fire and Rescue Authority.

11. The questions in the CRMP are designed to ensure that there is a general public understanding of how the Authority intends to make sure that services are delivered effectively and efficiently over the coming years. Members will appreciate that savings must be found and that it is difficult to envisage alternative ways of finding the scale of savings needed without removing fire engines and firefighter posts and potentially closing fire stations. Therefore, the consultation includes a specific question to gain views and local perspectives on proposals to reduce the level of fire and emergency cover.
12. The questions have also been drawn together into a short booklet to aid consultation. The CRMP and questionnaire will be available on the Service website and there will be links to it through the Service's social media sites.
13. Officers have prepared an extensive programme of consultation meetings with appropriate groups and interested parties, including with firefighters at those fire stations potentially most affected, in addition to the wider general public consultation. A list of consultees and locations where the consultation will be publicly available can be found at Appendix 2.
14. At the end of the consultation period, an analysis of the results will be brought back to the Fire and Rescue Authority for consideration and approval. Following approval, the CRMP will be formally published and an implementation plan will be prepared.

## **Conclusion/Summary**

15. The Community Risk Management Plan 2020 is the most important and far-reaching plan for many years. It comes at a time of much reduced public funding and represents the Chief Fire Officer's recommended course of action to address the issues this presents over the coming years.
16. The CRMP is a very lengthy document but it needs to be, given the magnitude of the task ahead. The main themes have been kept as concise as possible but it is important that anyone reading the document has all the necessary information before them to be able to understand the reasoning behind proposed changes to service delivery.
17. The actions set out in the CRMP present difficult choices but, if the Service is going to be able to continue to meet its obligations in the coming years, difficult decisions will need to be made. Officers will ensure that the implementation of the agreed course of action will be carried out with the utmost sensitivity.

## Corporate Considerations

<b>Resource Implications</b> (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	Financial savings to help to address the budget gap are identified in the CRMP. This will have significant financial, legal, property and human resources implications.
<b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	The CRMP will represent the Authority's overall strategic plan for delivering priorities and policies up to 2020, and will guide all service functions.
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	The CRMP sets out the Authority's overall approach to risk management.
<b>Consultation</b> (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	Preparation of the CRMP has included a workshop and presentation to Members. An extensive programme of meetings with key groups and interested parties has been scheduled over a twelve week period. A consultation questionnaire has been prepared to ensure wide public consultation.
<b>Equalities</b> (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	Proposals in the CRMP will have an impact on risk within the community. A formal Equalities Impact Assessment has not been undertaken; however, the CRMP has identified where the main life risks are located throughout the two counties. Profiles of all fire station areas have been prepared to show the potential impact of proposals and where mitigation measures may need to be put in place.

## Supporting Information

Background Information

**Link:** [Fire and Rescue National Framework for England](#) DCLG © *Crown copyright 2012*

**Datasets:** All data used for research and analysis in the CRMP is based on four datasets spanning January 2007 to March 2012:

- i. all mobilisations between 2007-08 and 2011-12
- ii. all incidents between 2007-08 and 2011-12
- iii. all commercial buildings and fires in commercial buildings between 2008 and 2011
- iv. all fires in buildings, casualties and fatalities between 2007 and 2011

**Appendix 1:** Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020 (*sent as a separate appendix*)

**Appendix 2:** Consultation – list of consultees and locations

**Contact Officer**

Mark Yates, Chief Fire Officer

(01905 368202)

Email: [myates@hwfire.org.uk](mailto:myates@hwfire.org.uk)

## **Consultation – list of consultees and locations**

The consultation on the Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020 (“the CRMP”) will run for 12 weeks.

A wide range of stakeholders will be contacted during the consultation period in order for them to have a full appreciation of the content of the CRMP and the proposals being put forward.

The consultation programme includes both internal consultation with members of staff at the Fire and Rescue Service, as well as external consultation with key groups and organisations. In addition, there will be wider publicity to raise awareness with members of the public and to encourage them to complete the consultation questionnaire. There will also be a series of briefings with key heads of organisations and members of the press.

### **Internal Consultation**

All Watches at all Fire Stations will receive briefings.

All Service Departments will be invited to attend briefing sessions at each location.

Direct email will be sent to all staff with links to relevant documents.

Regular articles and reminders will be placed in the Service’s weekly newsletter/bulletin.

The Service Intranet will be regularly updated and encouraging staff to respond to consultation.

Representative Bodies will have direct briefings.

### **External Consultation – key groups and organisations**

Direct email with links to the CRMP and consultation document.	Neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services
	Voluntary, Third Sector and Interest Groups
	County, District, Town and Parish Councils
	Public Sector Organisations, including Police, Ambulance and NHS Trusts
	Housing Associations and Trusts
	Business Organisations

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**External Consultation – wider public awareness**

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**Press releases to be issued throughout consultation process.**

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**Social media campaign to be launched when consultation gets underway.**

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**Dedicated website page on [www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk) with all documents available. A visible banner on the home page of the website to direct people to the relevant page.**

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**Briefings**

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<b>One-to-one briefing by the Chief Fire Officer or a Principal Officer arranged as necessary, to include:</b>	<b>Members of Parliament</b>
	<b>Chief Executive of West Midlands Ambulance Service</b>
	<b>Chief Constable of West Mercia Police</b>
	<b>Chief Executive Office of Herefordshire &amp; Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce</b>
	<b>members of the Press</b>

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