

Report of the Head of Corporate Services

Draft Community Risk Management Plan 2021-25 – Consultation

Purpose of report

1. To request authority to publish the Draft Community Risk Management Plan 2021-25 for public consultation.
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Recommendation

It is recommended that Members consider the contents of the Draft Community Risk Management Plan 2021-25 and approve it for public consultation.

Introduction and Background

2. The Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) is the Authority's overall plan for improving public safety. It provides an overview of fire and rescue related risks and sets out high-level plans for identifying, assessing and mitigating those risks.
3. The current CRMP 2014-20 covers the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2021. This includes an extension of one year agreed at the Fire Authority meeting on 19 December 2018. The extension helps to facilitate the alignment of the new CRMP 2021-25 with Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan 2021-25 (IRMP). This follows the agreement by the Strategic Fire Alliance between Hereford & Worcester and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Services to align the integrated risk management planning processes for both Services. This was also reported to the Fire Authority at the 19 December 2018 meeting.
4. Officers from both Services have drafted the new CRMP and IRMP using the same approach to identifying and assessing fire and rescue related risks and in managing and reducing those risks through core prevention, protection and response services. The draft documents are now ready for consultation to gain public opinion on each Service's plans for the 2021-2025 period. The draft CRMP is attached as Appendix 1.

CRMP content

5. The draft CRMP opens with an introduction to the Service including the wide range of services it delivers and an overview of financial sustainability and potential funding pressures over the term of the new CRMP. It is then organised into three main sections, which cover the following:

- a) Stage 1: Identifying and Assessing Risk – this summarises how the Service identifies, understands and assesses risks arising in four main areas:
- People and Places
 - Economic factors
 - Transport
 - Environment (Natural, Built and Historic) and Climate Change impacts

Stage 1 also includes a summary review of performance and notable achievements over the term of the last CRMP.

- b) Stage 2: Managing and Reducing Risk – this sets out how the Service intends to tackle identified fire and rescue related risks over the term of the new CRMP. It includes sections covering aims and activities across six main areas:
- Prevention
 - Protection
 - Response
 - Maintaining Resilience
 - Delivering Value for Money
 - Valuing our Workforce

Stage 2 concludes with a number of headline actions intended to be delivered over the term of the new CRMP.

- c) Stage 3: Measuring and Demonstrating Impact – this outlines a monitoring and evaluation process designed to assist in measuring the impact of Service activities in reducing risk and making a positive difference over time.

6. The CRMP will be supported by an annual Strategic Risk Assessment, which considers the impact of potential fire and rescue related risks arising from local, national and global change.

Consultation

7. There is a statutory requirement for public consultation prior to finalising the new CRMP. In light of the current and foreseeable circumstances arising from the Covid-19 crisis, an online process is proposed. This will be conducted primarily through the Service's website, press and social media channels, supported by online focus groups to be held over the summer months, 2020. In addition to the general public, consultees will include the Service workforce and representative bodies, and key groups and organisations such as neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services, Police and local authorities. It is proposed that Opinion Research Services (ORS), an independent social research practice, be engaged to undertake the consultation process, which will also include an impartial analysis of responses.

8. The draft CRMP includes a set of questions designed to encourage comments on the three main stages of the document to ensure there is an understanding of how the Service intends to manage risks effectively, efficiently and sustainably over the coming years.

Conclusion/Summary

9. A new CRMP to cover the years 2021-25 has been drafted in conjunction with Shropshire FRS's preparation of their IRMP for 2021-25, both of which are due to be published on 1 April 2021. A period of public consultation is required to gain views and local perspectives on the Service's plans for keeping people safe over the CRMP period, and it is proposed to conduct the consultation primarily online over the coming summer months, given the present Covid-19 circumstances.
10. Full details of the consultation and analysis of responses will be presented back to the Fire Authority for consideration at the earliest opportunity to ensure the final CRMP 2021-25 can be published on 1 April 2021. Members are requested to consider the draft CRMP and approve it for public consultation.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	Sustainable funding will be required in order to maintain the delivery of high quality services over the four-year term of the CRMP. Over this period, there may be public sector funding pressures that could impact on the delivery levels of services.
Strategic Policy Links (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 between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2025, and will guide all Service functions.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	The CRMP sets out the Authority's overall approach to risk management. Proposed activities to manage risks identified in the CRMP will be assessed and managed through normal departmental planning processes.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	The preparation of the draft CRMP has involved joint workshops with colleagues at Shropshire FRS to ensure a common approach to risk identification and management. An extensive programme of local risk workshops has also been conducted with staff in all Service departments. The proposed public consultation will ensure that wider public opinions and perspectives will also inform the final CRMP.

<p>Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)</p>	<p>The draft CRMP is a consultation document and does not require an EIA at this stage. Information gained during the consultation process will be used to prepare an EIA in readiness for the publication of the final CRMP document in April 2021.</p>
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Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Draft Community Risk Management Plan 2021 – 2025 – Consultation Document