

## **12. Integrated Risk Management Plan – Draft 2010/2011 Action Plan Consultation.**

### **Purpose of report**

1. To recommend the Draft 2010/11 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Action Plan for consultation.
- 

### **Recommendations**

**The Chief Fire Officer recommends that the Authority approves the Draft 2010-11 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Action Plan for consultation.**

### **Background**

2. Members will be aware that the Authority set a 3 year Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) that commenced on 1 April 2009. It is also a requirement under Best Value legislation that an annual IRMP Action Plan is published for public consultation. The action plan will be consulted upon for 12 weeks and a final plan, incorporating any feedback, will be submitted to the Authority for approval at the December 2009 meeting.

### **Process**

3. The 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan is based upon a revised risk assessment, the results of which are contained within the IRMP Evidence Document. This review involved a full risk assessment looking at historical incident data analysis and demographic information across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. We also evaluated the effectiveness of our current prevention, protection and response arrangements.
4. This review took account of input from our District Commanders, District community safety staff and our fire fighters in order to capture local knowledge and risk information. The revised evidence document is available on the Service Website ([www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk)).
5. The resulting Action Plan was approved by the IRMP Steering Group on 11 May 2009 and is detailed below.

### **2010/11 Action Plan Recommendations**

6. The IRMP team has carried out a review of incidents attended by our crews over the last 3 years to identify periods of peak activity and identify any opportunities to review our shift systems and crewing arrangements to deliver efficiencies. A previous IRMP introduced revised arrangements at our day crewed stations. The effectiveness of these changes is now due for review.

**Recommendation 1 - During 2010/11 we will review our revised management arrangements at our day crewed stations.**

7. Targeted response vehicles (TRVs) are small fire appliances that have been introduced in many parts of the County to deal with minor fires, such as small areas of grass verge. They are typically crewed by between 2 and 4 fire fighters and offer the potential to reduce the number of times our main appliances are unavailable to respond to more serious incidents because they are tied up on minor calls. Analysis of the number of small secondary fires attended indicates that there is scope for further investigation of the potential for the introduction of TRVs.

**Recommendation 2 - During 2010/11 we will investigate the options for the increased use of TRVs across the Service.**

8. In accordance with guidance issued by CLG, our crews have carried out an initial review of their station areas to identify heritage sites and sites with the potential to pollute, either from their on-site activities or from water run-off from fire fighting at their premises. Protection of heritage sites and the environment is a developing role for the Fire and Rescue Service.

**Recommendation 3 - Further develop local risk profiles to include an assessment of high level salvage risks associated with heritage sites.**

**Recommendation 4 - Further develop local risk profiles to include an assessment of potential risk to the environment.**

9. The Service is committed to reviewing interoperability arrangements with colleagues in neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services. We are working towards common operational procedures to reduce risk and make the most efficient and effective use of our combined resources in border areas. The Service has made significant progress in this area, in particular within the West Midlands region. We recognise that there is additional work to be done with our other neighbours.

**Recommendation 5 - We will further develop interoperability arrangements with Gloucestershire, South Wales and Mid and West Wales.**

10. Following the 2007 flooding event, the Service carried out a significant debriefing process, culminating in the BVPP scrutiny report. The findings of that report were incorporated into our planning processes, part of which was the updating of our Flood Response Strategy. Local developments have been delayed as we awaited the Government's response to the Pitt review, which was announced in December 2008.
11. Our revised Flood/Water Rescue Strategy has identified a number of improvements necessary to strengthen our response and ensure the safety of our responders. Taking account of local flood/water risks and strategic cover requirements, a need for a number of trained "first responder" teams equipped with dry suits and other equipment was identified.
12. Two options have been identified:
- (A) To provide a minimum standard of cover, selected personnel at the following stations would receive training:
- Kidderminster (funded as a safe system of work for the HVP asset)
  - Tenbury
  - Upton-on-Severn
  - Ross-on-Wye

13. This level of additional cover would incur an ongoing revenue cost of £21,000 per annum that would have to be found from back office efficiencies.

(B) Should the Authority support an optimal level of cover that would provide extra flexibility and resilience across the two counties, the following stations would also be equipped to first responder standards:

- Pershore
- Bromyard (to also support safe system of work with Environmental Protection Unit.)
- Leintwardine

14. This would add £15,000 per annum to the revenue cost, taking the total back office efficiencies required for an optimal level of cover to £36,000 per annum.

**Recommendation 6 – That we consult stakeholders on whether to introduce a minimum level of flood/water first responders, requiring back office efficiencies of £21,000 per annum, or provide an optimum level of cover requiring back office efficiencies of £36,000 per annum.**

15. The Authority has already adopted water and rope rescue as an integral part of our core business. Following the completion of the Government funded Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) project we are now in a position to consolidate support for all elements of technical rescue within the Service to provide greater coherence and interoperability across all specialist disciplines. Better utilisation of the skills and capacity of the USAR team to support this goal will provide an opportunity to achieve this outcome at no additional cost to the Authority.

**Recommendation 7 - We will establish a central hub based around the USAR team to co-ordinate and manage specialist Technical Rescue functions within the Service.**

## **Consultation Process**

16. The Authority has a statutory duty to consult on the IRMP Action Plan through the following guiding principles:

- Any person or organisation must have an opportunity to express their views regarding any significant change if they have a legitimate interest in or may be affected by IRMP proposals.
- The scope of the consultation undertaken will be proportionate to the nature and extent of any changes proposed.

17. The 2009 IRMP consultation will commence following approval of the Action Plan by the FRA on 29 June 2009 for a 12 week period.

18. Our Consultation Plan involves all our stakeholders, both internal and external including:

- Staff in all Districts, including our retained duty staff, and our support staff
- Representative bodies
- Public Focus Groups and Community Safety Events
- Authority Members, Parish Councils

➤ Partner Organisations

19. The consultation will use a variety of methods including face-to-face discussion groups, mail shots, email campaigns and internet/web based opportunities for people to respond.
20. The IRMP Steering Group will meet to consider the findings of the consultation and the final version will be presented to the full Authority for approval in December 2009. The final approved Action Plan will form the basis for our corporate planning process for the coming year.

**Corporate Considerations**

21. A Business Impact Analysis form is attached at Appendix 1 to measure and address the proposals contained in this report. The form contains information on the potential resource implications, legal issues, strategic policy links, equality / ethical issues and risk management implications.

**Supporting Information**

Appendix 1 - Business Impact Assessment Form

Background Papers – IRMP Evidence Document

**Contact Officer**

Paul Hayden, Chief Fire Officer  
(0845 1224454)  
Email: PHayden@hwfire.org.uk