

9. IRMP Consultation and Approval of Annual Action Plan 2010/11

Purpose of report

1. To provide the Authority with details of the consultation process for the 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan and to provide a summary of the key themes from feedback received.
2. To seek approval of the 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan as amended following public consultation.

Recommendations

The Chief Fire Officer recommends:

- (i) That the consultation report be noted and***
- (ii) That the 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan is approved, namely:***
 - 1. During 2010/11 we will review our revised management arrangements at our day crewed stations***
 - 2. Further develop local risk profiles to include an assessment of high level salvage risks associated with Heritage Sites***
 - 3. Further develop local risk profiles to include an assessment of potential risk to the environment***
 - 4. We will further develop interoperability arrangements with Gloucestershire, South Wales and Mid and West Wales***
 - 5. We will provide an optimum level of flood/water first responder cover, requiring back office efficiencies of £36k p.a.***
 - 6. We will establish a centre based around the USAR team to co-ordinate and manage the specialist Technical Rescue functions within the Service.***

Background

3. In accordance with the Fire and Rescue National Framework, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority has developed a 3 year Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) to be delivered over 2009/12. The IRMP process requires us to produce annual Action Plans setting out how we intend to achieve our vision.
4. Members will be aware that the draft IRMP Annual Action Plan for 2010/11 was approved for consultation by the Authority in June 2009.

5. In order to comply with the Government's adopted code of practice for consultations, during the 12 weeks from 29 June to 22 September 2009, the Authority consulted a wide variety of individuals, groups and partnerships from across the two counties to get a view on the proposals outlined in the draft 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan.
6. The proposals were distributed widely amongst stakeholders (statutory and voluntary sector agencies; community organisations; specialist agencies e.g. Fire Protection Association; multi-agency partnerships; etc.). In addition to this a range of focus groups and open day events were attended. Focus groups targeted staff groups and representative bodies. Additionally the Annual Action Plan proposals were hosted on the Service's web site.
7. The written responses received, coupled with the feedback from the focus groups, gives a broad outline of the key themes in response to the IRMP proposals (ref. Appendix 1.)
8. Over 100 anonymous responses were received in writing, directly responding to the questionnaire provided with the plan. Two detailed written responses were received from the Fire Brigades' Union and Fire Protection Association. The level of response to this consultation process has been the most successful to date.

2010/11 IRMP Action Plan Feedback and Consequential Amendments

9. The detailed feedback, analysis and recommendations from the draft 2010/11 IRMP Annual Action Plan Consultation is included as Appendix 1.
10. The Authority's IRMP Steering Group has met to consider the findings of the consultation and identified two amendments to the proposed plan for approval, taking account of the feedback received.
11. Recommendation 2 (Targeted Response Vehicles) is proposed to be withdrawn until a more in-depth exercise into the business / performance case for Targeted Response Vehicles can be made. Further details around potential TRV usage and associated issues will be reviewed and any further considerations of TRV proposals will examine the effectiveness of implementation in Fire and Rescue Services nationally.
12. Recommendation 7 (Central co-ordination of specialist Technical Rescue functions) was reworded to replace "central hub" with "centre".
13. In addition, the Steering Group identified Option 2 within Recommendation 6 as the stronger option to be recommended i.e. We will provide an optimum level of flood / water first responder cover, requiring back office efficiencies of £36k p.a.
14. The consequent Summary of Proposed Recommendations is included as Appendix 2.

Summary - Recommendations for 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan

15. The Fire and Rescue Authority is recommended to approve the following 2010/11 IRMP Action Plan:

15.1 During 2010/11 we will review our revised management arrangements at our day crewed stations

Consultation feedback will be incorporated into implementation plans to:

- Publish terms of reference for the review, and implement accordingly.
- Ensure terms of reference incorporate any impact on crewing arrangements.
- Outline performance outcomes of this proposal.
- Examine alerting system for day-crewed stations at night.

15.2 Further develop local risk profiles to include an assessment of high level salvage risks associated with Heritage Sites.

15.3 Further develop local risk profiles to include an assessment of potential risk to the environment.

15.4 We will further develop interoperability arrangements with Gloucestershire, South Wales and Mid and West Wales

15.5 We will provide an optimum level of flood / water first responder cover, requiring back office efficiencies of £36k p.a.

Consultation feedback will be incorporated into implementation plans to:

- Identify where back office savings would come from;
- Ensure that the integrated water response strategy that is currently under review incorporates all aspects of flood / water response provision
- Ensure that the integrated water response strategy also gives a look forward to any potential change should a new statutory duty be imposed

15.6 We will establish a centre based around the USAR team to co-ordinate and manage the specialist Technical Rescue functions within the Service.

Consultation feedback will be incorporated into implementation plans to
Identify opportunity for USAR staff to undertake peripatetic training

Corporate Considerations

16. A Business Impact Analysis form is attached at Appendix 3 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 – Draft 2010-11 IRMP Annual Action Plan Consultation:
Feedback, Analysis and Recommendations

Appendix 2 – 2010-11 IRMP Annual Action Plan Consultation: Summary of Proposed
Recommendations

Appendix 3 – Business Impact Assessment Form

Background papers – 2010/11 Draft IRMP Consultation Document

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