

## **9. IRMP Consultation and Approval of Annual Action Plan 2011/12**

### **Purpose of report:**

1. To provide the Authority with details of the consultation process for the 2011/12 IRMP Action Plan.
2. To provide a summary of the key themes from the feedback received.
3. To consider and approve the amended draft Action Plan 2011/12 as recommended to the Authority by the Policy and Resources Committee.

---

### **Recommendations**

***The Policy and Resources Committee recommends that the Authority:***

- i) Notes the consultation process and the feedback received; and***
- ii) Approves the amended 2011/12 IRMP Action Plan.***

### **Introduction and Background**

4. In accordance with the Fire and Rescue Service 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 this.
5. The draft IRMP Annual Action Plan for 2011/12 was approved for consultation by the Authority in June 2010.
6. In order to comply with the Government's adopted code of practice for consultations, during the 12 weeks from 28 June to 20 September 2010, 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 2011/12 IRMP Action Plan.
7. The written responses received, coupled with the feedback from workshops held previously, give a broad outline of the key themes in response to the IRMP proposals (see Appendix 1).
8. Eighty five responses were received in writing, directly responding to the questionnaire provided with the Plan. One detailed written response was received from the Fire Brigades' Union. The Retained Firefighters' Union also entered into discussions over the proposals, but did not submit a detailed response.
9. The Authority's IRMP Steering Group met on 25 October 2010 to consider the findings of the consultation and identified amendments to the proposed plan for approval, taking account of the feedback received.

10. The Policy and Resources Committee on 8 December considered the consultation feedback, the amendments suggested arising from same and from the IRMP Steering Group and recommended the draft, as presented, for approval by the Authority on 17 December 2010.

### **2011/12 IRMP Action Plan Feedback and Consequential Amendments**

11. Recommendations 1 and 2 remain unchanged.
12. Recommendation 3 is amended to read; "We will reduce our attendance at false alarms caused by AFAs (Automatic Fire Alarms) after a review of our policies and procedures and the implementation of our findings." Some of the supporting information and data on this subject have also been reworded to provide clarity.
13. Recommendation 4 remains unchanged, but consultation did ask the Authority to consider that these proposals should take account of firefighter safety if any changes are proposed and to ensure that any outcomes from this review will be the subject of further consultation.
14. Recommendations 5, 6 and 7 remain unchanged.
15. The consequent Summary of Proposed Recommendations is included as Appendix 2.

### **2011/12 IRMP Action Plan**

16. The 7 draft recommendations that are now proposed are:
  1. ***During 2011/12 we will conduct a review of the impact of the recent changes in Technical Fire Safety arrangements to ensure that the anticipated benefits are being fully realised.***
  2. ***We will review the allocation of our community safety resources to ensure the best fit of activities to risk. This will maximise our ability to reduce risk in our communities.***
  3. ***We will reduce our attendance at false alarms caused by AFAs (Automatic Fire Alarms) after a review of our policies and procedures and the implementation of our findings.***
  4. ***We will review our fire cover and response arrangements with a focus on:***
    - ***The requirement for a third appliance at Hereford, Worcester and Redditch;***
    - ***The current crewing arrangements at Bromsgrove; and***
    - ***The appropriate number of personnel on each watch at wholetime and day crewed stations.***
  5. ***We will ensure our Property Strategy is fully aligned to our IRMP proposals including Recommendation No.4 and other aspects of Service Delivery, such as the provision of effective operational training.***

6. ***We will consider our current operational training strategy and provision to identify any potential for improvement in both effectiveness and efficiency, and implement any appropriate changes.***
7. ***We will review our approach to environmental issues to ensure that we are maximising the potential partnership working in this area, reducing our energy usage and identifying further opportunities for cost efficiency***

## Conclusion/Summary

17. The recommendations for the draft IRMP Action Plan 2011/12 have now completed consultation and have been considered, amended and agreed by the IRMP steering group.
18. The Policy and Resources Committee on 8 December recommended that the Authority approves the draft Action Plan 2011/2012.
19. The IRMP Action Plan 2011/12 will now form the basis to enable the Authority to direct the available resources to meet those risks faced by the Fire and Rescue Service within the communities of Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

## Financial Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are financial issues that require consideration	Y	Paragraph 14.

## 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	N	

## Additional Considerations

20. 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).	Y	Paragraph 14, resources required to carry out reviews.
<b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	Y	Paragraph 14
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	N	
<b>Consultation with Representative Bodies</b>	Y	Paragraph 14, outcomes of reviews will need further consultation

## **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1 – Summary of consultation document

Background papers – none

## **Contact Officer**

Lucy Phillips, Deputy Chief Fire Officer  
(01905 368256)  
Email: [lphillips@hwfire.org.uk](mailto:lphillips@hwfire.org.uk)