

GLOUCESTERSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRMP) 2015-18

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| Cabinet Date | 15 April 2015 |
| Fire, Planning and Infrastructure | Cllr Will Windsor-Clive |
| Key Decision | Yes |
| Background Documents | Council Strategy 2015-2018 Medium Term Financial Strategy IRMP Consultation Report |
| Location/Contact for inspection of Background Documents | www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/councilstrategy www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/budget www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/irmp |
| Main Consultees | Corporate Management Team Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee Local communities and organisations, local and neighbouring emergency services and staff |
| Planned Dates | Consultation 4 th November 2014 - 27 th January 2015. Publication April 2015 |
| Divisional Councillor | All |
| Officer | Stewart Edgar, Chief Fire Officer, 01452 75333 stewart.edgar@glosfire.gov.uk |
| Purpose of Report | To consider responses to the statutory public consultation on the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2015-18. |
| Recommendations | <i>That Cabinet:</i> 1) <i>Endorses the final Integrated Risk Management Plan 2015 – 2018 incorporating changes made in light of consultation feedback;</i> 2) <i>Agrees to further consultation on any changes proposed that significantly impact on local communities, to take place once the fundamental review of operational response has been completed.</i> |
| Reasons for recommendations | The Council, as the Fire Authority, has a statutory duty to have an Integrated Risk Management Plan. Some key elements of the IRMP will be subject to further development in the first year and a number of consultees requested further engagement in order to gain a better understanding of the implications once more details are available. |

**Resource
Implications**

Endorsement of the IRMP (Appendix A) will enable the service to move to the next stage in delivering an IRMP which will position the service to meet its statutory duties within the resources available during 2015-2018.

MAIN REPORT CONTENTS

1. Background

1. The Council Strategy agreed by Council in February 2015 sets out our response to the challenges of growing demand for services for vulnerable people within the context of reducing finances. The four strands of our approach are:
 - Active individuals
 - Active communities
 - Getting people back to independence
 - Being there when we're needed most.
2. We have translated this into a series of policies which set the strategic direction:
 - a) Active Individuals
 - b) Active Communities
 - c) Children & Young People
 - d) Growing Older in Gloucestershire
 - e) Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (Integrated Risk Management Plan)
 - f) Building Better Lives
3. In October 2014 Cabinet endorsed the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2015 - 2018 (IRMP) for a 12 week public consultation. This set out how we will meet our statutory obligations as Fire Authority (detailed in the background papers) and how Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) aims to manage risk in ways that support these wider council policies.
4. Against a backdrop of public sector funding pressure there has been a 39% reduction in annual total incidents responded to by the Service over a ten year period. To ensure that the Service remains effective and efficient the draft IRMP includes a three year action plan to manage changes to service provision and refocus service delivery on managing demand and prevention (helping people avoid death and injury from fires, road traffic collisions and other emergencies).

2. Consultation and our response

5. The draft IRMP action plan featured proposals for:
 - A full review of operational response provision including response targets
 - An approach to risk management where resource utilisation is based on risk
 - A focus on prevention and protection activity to reduce risk and demand
 - A more flexible approach to operational response
 - Use of technology to improve effectiveness and make efficient use of resources
 - Greater use of retained and community firefighters to build resilience
6. The public consultation from 4th November 2014 - 27th January 2015 took the form of an online survey questionnaire asking five questions, local media press and radio

coverage, use of social media and letters to key stakeholders. A list of stakeholders contacted and a summary of key points raised in the responses is in Appendix B.

7. 105 survey responses were received, from across all six districts. Over half were from members of the public (56%), one quarter (25%) from GFRS staff and 7% from businesses. Written responses were received from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Fire Brigades Union.
8. As part of the consultation process the Chief Fire Officer attended Environment and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 14th January 2015. The Committee confirmed that it was content with the direction of travel the fire and rescue service was taking, and in the development of the plan. It noted that it would have an opportunity to comment on future implementation plans and requested that the fire and rescue service provide regular updates on the IRMP and delivery of the Year 1 Implementation Plan.
9. The consultation survey highlighted high levels of support for reviewing the GFRS operational response to ensure that resources match the level of risk. Of the 92 responses to this question 41 (45%) explicitly supported a review and 31 (34%) gave implied support. 8 (9%) wanted no reduction in operational response.
10. Three quarters of respondents supported a review of response/attendance standards, with 21 of the 87 responses explicitly supporting this. Although some respondents felt concern over reductions to operational response within rural communities, others felt that people living in these areas should not expect to receive the same response times as those living in urban areas.
11. Proposals to increase the focus on preventative activities to manage down demand and risk were supported by 70 of the 83 responses, with suggestions on preventative work such as advice/fitting alarms, extending education including fires and road traffic collisions and focussing on those most at risk.
12. We also asked whether there were specific other areas of the service which should be included in the Year 1 Review. Half of the 66 respondents made suggestions, covering issues including joint working with the ambulance service on emergency medical response, retained fire fighter recruitment, shift patterns, flooding response, training and cross-boundary arrangements. All of these areas will be looked at either as part of the fundamental Review of Operational Response, the development of risk based response standards or the development of the Demand Management Service Delivery Model.
13. Some responses highlighted areas of work not included in the draft IRMP. Given the potential for improved efficiencies it is recommended that the following additional review areas be included in the final IRMP Action Plan:
 - Automatic Fire Alarm Policy
 - SkillZONE's role in prevention
 - Training provision
 - The role of Co responders and work with South West Ambulance Service Trust
14. In addition the Service will consider including Year 1 targets for reducing incidents of fire and the number of casualties. These will be published as part of the Business Plan for 2015/2016 and monitored quarterly.

15. In light of comments received about the difficulty in establishing the potential impact of proposals under development a statement of intent has been included in the final IRMP 2015 – 2018 to re assure stakeholders that there will be additional consultation on any changes that could significantly impact on local communities. This will take place once the fundamental review of operational response has been completed and further data is available.
16. Taking account of comments received on the draft IRMP, some of the graphs within the plan have been amended to make them easier to understand for the reader. No changes have been made to the content of the graphs.

3. Options

Option 1 – Endorse the IRMP with changes (recommendation)

Option 2 – Endorse the IRMP without changes

Option 3 – Refer the draft IRMP back to GFRS with comments

4. Risk Assessment

Failure to publish an IRMP for 2015 – 2018 (Option 3) would put the Fire Authority at risk of challenge from central government potentially leading to intervention and damage to the reputation of the Authority.

The recommendations within the action plan position GFRS to develop the Service's approach within the funding envelope of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. The extent of the necessary efficiencies for the Service will almost certainly have some impact on the delivery of front line services however the Service will strive to improve front line outcomes. For this reason a very measured and thoroughly researched approach is being taken to identify where those efficiencies can be found whilst minimising the risk of adverse impacts on outcomes for communities. Any less well considered approach carries a far greater risk of impact on the safety of communities.

5. Officer Advice

The Chief Fire Officer's professional opinion is that the recommended IRMP and associated action plan will enable the Fire Authority to discharge its statutory functions in a satisfactory manner, whilst giving the development of measures that reflect the challenging financial context the careful consideration and consultation that they need.

6. Equalities considerations

A full Due Regard Statement has been produced for this activity. Some points to note from the consultation survey are:

- Twice as many men as women took part
- One third of respondents were aged over 60 (and no-one aged under 16)
- 5% of respondents considered themselves to have a disability
- One third have caring responsibilities

Research into fire fatalities in Gloucestershire and elsewhere in England highlights the importance of focussed preventative work with protected groups at greatest risk of harm, primarily older people and people with disabilities. The final IRMP proposes a range of measures aimed at assessing and managing risk for these groups within the wider population and further consultation as proposals are developed. Progress will be monitored through delivery of the IRMP Action Plan and performance is reported to Council through the strategic performance reporting process.

7. Performance Management/Follow-up

The IRMP incorporates a three year action plan that will be monitored as part of the Operational Management reporting, lead member and scrutiny briefings and to Council through the strategic performance reporting process.

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| Report Title | Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2015-18 |
| Statutory Authority | Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 Fire and Rescue National Framework for England |
| Relevant Council policy | Council Strategy 2015-2018 |
| Resource Implications | To be managed within GFRS budget |
| Sustainability checklist: | |
| Partnerships | Partnership working is a key element of the new Demand Management Service Delivery model being implemented within GFRS as an outcome of the recent strategic review, which itself features within the IRMP |
| Decision Making and Involvement | Decisions will be made following staff and public consultation |
| Economy and Employment | The proposed action plan will focus on prevention work thereby minimising the impact of fire on the local economy. |
| Caring for people | All of the proposals within the action plan aim to proactively reduce suffering and loss, promoting independent living within our communities |
| Built Environment | The IRMP maintains protection to the built environment. |
| Natural Environment' including Ecology (Biodiversity) | IRMP maintains the Service's ability to protect the natural environment from fire and other events |
| Education and Information | This is important element of our prevention agenda |
| Tackling Climate Change | Carbon Emissions Implications? Neutral Vulnerable to climate change? No |
| Due Regard Statement | Has a Due Regard Statement been completed? Yes Yes – considerations included in main body of report A copy of the full Due Regard Statement can be accessed on GLOSTEXT via http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1 Alternatively a hard copy is available from Jo Moore, Democratic Services Unit, e-mail: jo.moore@gloucestershire.gov.uk . |
| Human rights Implications | N/A |
| Consultation Arrangements | As set out within the report |