



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 16 February 2018

Purpose of Report:

To update the Authority on the requirement to develop the next Integrated Risk Management Plan and propose that Members engage in the early formation of priorities through the Policy and Strategy Committee.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name : Craig Parkin
Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Tel : 0115 967 0880

Email : craig.parkin@notts-fire.gov.uk

**Media Enquiries
Contact :** Therese Easom
(0115) 967 0880 therese.easom@notts-fire.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Each Fire and Rescue Authority is required to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which identifies and assesses all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect its communities, including those of a cross-border, multi-authority and/or national nature. The plan must also have regard to community risk registers produced by the Local Resilience Forum and any other local risk analyses as appropriate.
- 1.2 The principle of an IRMP is now well embedded since its introduction and inclusion in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and supporting National Framework Documents (NFD). The 2012 NFD stated every Fire and Rescue Service must produce an IRMP that covers at least three years, is publicly available, reflects consultation and utilises up to date risk information.
- 1.3 In 2010 the Fire Cover Review (FCR) introduced additional methods for assessing and communicating risk, at the same time Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) began to publish annual reports on operational activity on its website, allowing communities to better access and understand the demands upon its resources.
- 1.4 The Authority is required to prepare an IRMP that sets out the vision and service objectives for the organisation, reflecting effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce, representative bodies and partners.
- 1.5 Whilst the Service's current IRMP 2014/19 has over 12 months to run, considerable time is required to effectively plan, develop, consult upon and implement a new IRMP. This report formally commences that process and engages Members of the Authority from the outset.
- 1.6 Two further emerging activities are intrinsic to the organisation's next IRMP. Firstly, the latest National Framework Document is currently undergoing consultation and is expected to be implemented during 2018, and secondly, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) will deliver an inspection framework and commence service inspections from April 2018. NFRS's inspection is expected to take place in the later part of 2018 and any outcomes will need to be addressed going forward.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Each Fire and Rescue Authority must take account of the NFD in the development of its IRMP which must:
 - Be easily accessible and publicly available;

- Reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies, and partners;
 - Cover at least a three-year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as it is necessary to ensure that fire and rescue authorities are able to deliver the requirements set out in this Framework; and
 - Reflect up to date risk analyses and the evaluation of service delivery outcomes.
- 2.2 The NFD does not prescribe how to consult, but it should be proportionate to the nature and content of the IRMP, including any changes in the delivery of services being proposed.
- 2.3 The IRMP should “reflect effective consultation throughout its development”, therefore, communities will be engaged before a draft plan is subject to formal consultation. This consultation is aimed at education and wider issues facing NFRS rather than the specifics of the Plan itself.
- 2.4 To ensure that Members are fully engaged from the outset it is proposed, in-line with the normal governance arrangements of the Authority, that the Policy and Strategy Committee is convened as a task and finish group to represent the views of the Authority in the early development of the IRMP. This will assist in demonstrating effective engagement throughout its development and at all review stages.
- 2.5 It is proposed the Service will undertake a full IRMP consultation process during 2018 after a stakeholder analysis has taken place. The priority throughout this process will be to demonstrate that effective communication is undertaken with key stakeholders and will be delivered using the Authority’s agreed and reviewed consultation framework.
- 2.6 NFRS will develop the IRMP which will be supplemented by an annual service plan that is a working document that links performance measures to priorities, and reinforces the strategic vision. The plan should be flexible enough to meet an ever-changing environment, yet balance some of the benefits from a longer-term plan.
- 2.7 This approach to planning reflects that used by local authorities and has been adopted as it fulfils the requirements of the National Framework Document and previous guidance published on IRMPs which states, “IRMPs will be strategic documents which although reviewed will essentially remain valid for a number of years and be accompanied by an annual action plan.”
- 2.8 NFRS has recently completed a competitive procurement process and has awarded a two-year contract to Opinion Research Services for the supply of consultation services to support the Fire Authority around the Sustainability Strategy and the next IRMP.

- 2.9 Experience in recent years has shown real added value from accessing the skills and experience of external bodies and where appropriate this will be considered during the IRMP process.
- 2.10 The technical and data methodology that underpins the organisations approach to IRMP is already subject to review, this will assure Members that the rationale for decision making is based upon sound foundations and compliments the professional advice provided by Officers.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Service continues to face financial pressure and the IRMP will be integral in demonstrating how it prioritises and directs its resources to the most vulnerable in communities, whilst at the same time maintaining an effective and resilient response function.
- 3.2 A budget of £45k has been established in 2018/19 for public consultation, as more information and experience is gained, formal proposals for resources will be developed and progressed through the normal governance arrangements where appropriate.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Whilst there are no direct implications contained within this report, as issues arise from the IRMP process these will be included in future update reports as necessary and business planning processes.
- 4.2 The preparatory work will be co-ordinated by Corporate Support, but will require substantial resources from across the whole organisation. The Strategic Leadership Team will ensure the demand is balanced across the Service to meet the required timescales.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken at this time as there are no changes to policy or delivery of services within this report.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Extensive opportunity for partner agencies to engage in the consultation will be integral to the IRMP process. Such liaison is intended to have a positive impact within our communities and the Authority's duty within the Social Value Act 2012.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Members are aware it is a statutory duty to prepare an IRMP under the National Framework Document issued by the Secretary of State under the provisions of Part 3, Section 21 of the Fire Services Act 2004. This report seeks to reassure Members that this is being considered in its development of the IRMP.
- 7.2 The Police and Crime Act 2017 also provides a statutory focus to consider opportunities to collaborate. This area will be considered as part of the development of the IRMP with key stakeholders, further discharging the duties of the Authority.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Any Service who the Secretary of State deems to be failing under the provisions of the National Framework Document, may be subject to intervention by the Secretary of State. The production of the plan is therefore an integral part of the Authority's obligations under the Fire Service Act 2004.
- 8.2 As detailed in the statutory duties, failure to develop and implement an IRMP which lays out the Authority's intentions could leave the Service open to criticism both through formal means and through the wider stakeholder engagement.

9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

Statutory duties placed on fire and rescue services through the Police and Crime Act 2017 provides a renewed focus to consider collaboration opportunities with other emergency services. The IRMP is an opportunity to implement the Service's strategic intent and engage in collaborative activities to deliver efficiencies, effectiveness and/or improved outcomes for communities.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 10.1 Note the requirements of this project and support the process to develop the next IRMP;
- 10.2 Request that the Policy and Strategy Committee is convened as a task and finish group to work with Officers in the early development of the next IRMP.
- 10.3 Agree to receive future reports as the IRMP development process continues.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER