

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
date	3 June 2005	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

FUTURE LOCAL (INTEGRATED) RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN DIRECTION

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform Fire Authority Members of the future direction and structure of Local (Integrated) Risk Management Planning.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Integrated Risk Management Planning was introduced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as a consequence of Fire Service Circular 7/2003. This circular laid down guidance for Fire and Rescue Authorities on how to prepare and plan for a more local approach to service delivery.

2.2 Integrated Risk Management Planning has now been firmly embedded into the future delivery of Local Service through the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the associated Fire and Rescue Service National Framework.

3. REPORT

3.1 Following the introduction of Fire Service Circular 7/2003 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service produced their first Integrated Risk Management Plan during 2003. It was formally adopted by the Fire Authority for implementation at its meeting of 26 March 2004, following public and stakeholder consultation.

3.2 The inaugural plan focussed on the initiatives required to alter the emphasis of the organisation from one of intervention to one of balanced education, prevention and response. This strategy was in line with the wider government agenda of social inclusion and improved communities.

3.3 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services' second plan was adopted by the Fire Authority in January 2005 following a period of 12 weeks public and stakeholder consultation. The implementation of this plan began in April 2005. The principles of the plan were to build on the initial proposals put forward in 2004. This plan focussed on the review of current provisions to ensure the organisation could meet its balanced focus on education, prevention and response.

3.4 Proposals for the 2006 action plan aligned to the IRMP process are currently being worked on by staff within the organisation. These proposals will be aligned to the Authority's wider agenda of accident reduction and social inclusion, building upon the principles of the previous two plans. Proposals are to be brought to Members at their meeting proposed for July 2005 with an outline consultation document ready for approval by September 2005.

3.5 It is intended, with Fire Authority approval, that from this year the organisation will move away from the term "Integrated Risk Management Plan". This is so that the process loses its project focus and becomes part of the organisation's overall planning cycle. The intention is to put forward the proposals as the "Nottinghamshire and city of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority Community Safety Plan".

3.6 It is also intended that from 2006 the plan will become more closely aligned with the corporate structure of the organisation, delivering its proposals through the functions of Community Safety, Finance and Resources and Human Resources. This will allow for clearer targets to be met, managed and also allow for improved Member scrutiny.

3.7 Outline timescales for Member approval are:

July 2005:	Outline proposals
September 2005:	Consultation document approval
September – December 2005:	Consultation
January 2006:	Consultation report
March 2006:	Community Safety Plan for approval.

Exact dates will be confirmed on Members approval of the proposed meeting schedule.

3.8 It is also intended that for the 2006 proposals, consultation will be undertaken by a professional organisation. Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service are members of the Fire Services' Consultation Association (FSCA), which gives access to the services of Opinion Research Services (ORS). This will improve consultation and remove any criticism of methods used to engage with the public.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be financial implications associated with the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Plan. This will be predominantly around the proposals contained within the plan and these will be identified to Members as part of the process.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There will be personnel implications associated with the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Plan. These will be identified within the proposals entered within the plan.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial Equality Impact Assessment has revealed that although there are no direct equality issues associated with this report, there will be a need to assess the future Community Safety Plan. This will be done as part of the process and presented to Members prior to consultation.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The need to produce an annual action plan associated with Integrated Risk Management Planning is laid down in statute through the Fire and Rescue Services Act and the associated National Framework. Failure to produce a plan would be a failure to meet a legal duty.

- 7.2 The proposed Community Safety Plan ensures that Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service continues to re-assess how it defines its service to the public, thus meeting the expectations of the Fire Authority.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That Fire Authority Members note the contents of this report and approve the change of terminology from the Local (Integrated) Risk Management Plan to the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority Community Safety Plan.
- 8.2 That Fire Authority Members approve the outline proposals for the consultation and publication schedule.
- 8.3 That Fire Authority Members approve the principle of using Opinion Research Services (ORS) to conduct the consultation process thus providing a more resilient methodology to assess the proposals.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

- Fire Service Circular 7/2003.
- Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.
- Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2005/06.
- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Corporate Strategy 2005/08.

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