



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority

# **INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014-2019**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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**Agenda No:**

**Date:** 01 November 2013

**Purpose of Report:**

To seek the approval of Policy and Strategy Committee to consult on the attached draft Integrated Risk Management Plan, in line with the Fire Authority's agreed consultation strategy. To report back to the full Fire Authority following the consultation, detailing the outcomes and recommendations.

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

**Name :** Frank Swann  
Chief Fire Officer

**Tel :** (0115) 967 0880

**Email :** frank.swann@notts-fire.gov.uk

**Media Enquiries  
Contact :** 0115 967 0880

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The principle of Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) was introduced by Government through the release of the Fire Service Circular 7/2003. This was later reinforced by Government in legislation via the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and its associated Fire and Rescue Services National Framework.
- 1.2 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service produced its inaugural IRMP for consultation in October 2003 and this was formally adopted on 26 March 2004. This plan focused on targeting the principles and resources of the Service into community safety and fire and injuries prevention.
- 1.3 In 2006 the Authority agreed to move to a three year IRMP with the introduction of the 2006-2009 Community Safety Plan. This built on the foundations of the first two IRMP processes, but allowed the Service to move to a longer term view. This plan was updated to 2007-2010 a year later and has received an annual update to ensure it remains relevant.
- 1.4 The current IRMP is the fourth evolution and whilst it has tried to embrace many of the original concepts of development and high standards in respect of the Services wider aspirations around community engagement, the last two years have seen a reduction in funding which has clearly changed the focus of the Service to maintaining rather than developing initiatives.
- 1.5 The draft plan for the next period focuses over a period of five years and is written to encapsulate the aspirations of the Service but also to be suitably flexible so that if the Service needs to change its focus against a backdrop of further budget reductions, it can do so with targeted consultation, as has been previously undertaken when dealing with specific issues.
- 1.6 A brief rationale to the IRMP process sets the scene in this report and the appropriate elements of the national framework and overriding legislation is referenced.

## **2. REPORT**

- 2.1 Integrated risk management planning provides the foundation for Fire and Rescue Services to deliver Government's expectations for public services to meet the needs of local communities, consider the impact of the services they deliver on the environment and, for Fire and Rescue Services to respond effectively to regional, local and national emergencies.
- 2.2 Chapter 1 of the current National Framework for England states specific responsibilities with regard to how fire and rescue authorities must plan to keep their communities safe. Fire and rescue authorities need to identify and assess all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks in their communities, and

need to deliver effective and proportionate prevention and protection activities within their areas. The framework goes on to state:

*“Each fire and rescue authority must produce an IRMP that identifies and assesses all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect its community, including those of a cross border, multi-authority and/or national nature. The plan must have regard to the community risk registers produced by local resilience forums and any other local risk analyses as appropriate.”*

- 2.3 In meeting this expectation there are various other details that underpin the requirements, which include being accountable to the public, working in partnership with others, planning, and demonstrating through the IRMP process how all of these aspects come together to make their communities safer. It is also important that the Fire Authority demonstrates effective consultation throughout the whole process from conception to delivery.
- 2.4 This IRMP is different from previous iterations as Fire Authority members would expect. It, like the Framework, has evolved and focuses on the areas identified within the Framework, but also touches on key areas that NFRS feels is important in delivering the service. In this document they are identified as Service priorities and there are six. These are:
  - Response;
  - Employees and workforce;
  - Improvement and governance;
  - Engagement and partnerships ;
  - Environment;
  - Inclusion and equality.
- 2.5 In each section the IRMP identifies and lists key targets for the Service over the next five years. It does not however, say how it will specifically be delivered as the financial uncertainty affecting the Service may require different delivery to how it is done today and that the approach will evolve over the lifetime of this plan. The document does however include an action plan with target dates, how targets are approached and what the desired outcomes should look like.
- 2.6 A full copy of the draft document is appended to this report for Members' approval for consultation.
- 2.7 The framework is very specific with regard to consultation and places a number of requirements on the service. Not least:
  - The plan must be easily accessible and publically available;
  - The plan must reflect consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners;
  - The plan must 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 as set out in the Framework;

- The plan must reflect up to date risk analyses and the evaluation of service delivery outcomes.

2.8 Members will recall that some pre-consultation to determine the community's understanding of the IRMP process has already been undertaken in the formation of the document. If agreed by Policy and Strategy Committee, this document will be consulted upon utilising the Fire Authority's adopted consultation framework, with an outcomes report and recommendations being taken to a future Fire Authority meeting, but in time for the plan to commence from April 2014.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The relationship between the IRMP and the budget planning process is significant. If it is not within the IRMP then it should not form part of any annual action plan and therefore not fall within the budget. Equally, decisions on precept may be influenced by the proposals within the plan and how the Service wants to deliver its future actions.

### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The Service has specific responsibilities within the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to train and maintain a workforce, and the plan focuses on how the Service will support its employees. The specifics relating to this will be flexible and fall within the financial constraints set by the budgetary process. The Service's target areas are identified within the plan.

### **5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The plan will be assessed to ensure that it meets equalities objectives, and the Service has moved its focus slightly to include inclusion, so as to ensure service delivery touches all those within the communities it serves.

### **6. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service has a duty to produce an IRMP under the provisions of the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework and the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. Failure to comply with such a duty may lead to ministerial intervention and a failure to meet the changing demands of the community.

### **7. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

Fire and rescue authorities have a duty to exercise their functions in a way that prevents crime and disorder in their area.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The publication of an IRMP is enshrined within the National Framework, which itself is required under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. A failure to comply could leave the Fire Authority open to intervention and direction by the Secretary of State under powers granted by Section 22 of the Fire Services Act 2004

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Policy and Strategy Committee agree the attached draft IRMP for consultation and that the outcomes of the consultation be presented to the full Fire Authority with associated recommendations in time for formal adoption in April 2014.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)**

None.

Frank Swann  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**