



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Policy and Strategy Committee

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CORPORATE PLAN

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 28 April 2017

Purpose of Report:

This report provides Members an overview of the development for the Authority's next integrated risk management plan (IRMP) to be known as the Corporate Plan.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, Section 21, requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Fire and Rescue National Framework. The Framework must set out the priorities and objectives for the Authority in connection with the discharge of its duties; which may contain guidance on the discharge of their functions and may also contain any other matter relating to the Authority, its functions that the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- 1.2 The Secretary of State must keep the terms of the Framework under review and may from time to time make revisions to it. The Authority must have regard to the Framework in carrying out its functions and a key aspect is for the Authority to prepare, consult upon and publish an integrated risk management plan (IRMP).
- 1.3 The Authority's current IRMP is scheduled to end in 2019 having commenced in 2014 and contains six key priorities towards which the Service has been working towards.
- 1.4 Since its publication, many changes have taken place nationally, notably the move of fire and rescue back to the Home Office under the single responsibility of the Minister for Policing and Fire, and the introduction of the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The current Minister for Policing and Fire has stated that it is his intention to review and revise the National Framework during 2017, to take specific account of the changes in legislation to include the duty to collaborate. The timing of this review is ideal as early consideration by the Authority will be vital in shaping the next Corporate Plan, this will also be informed as relationships with Police and Crime Commissioners develop.
- 2.2 Central Government has also been clear on their expectation for expanded reform within the fire sector, including the need for the United Kingdom Fire and Rescue Service to better reflect the communities it serves, workforce reform and flexibility in its deployment of resources.
- 2.3 The fire sector will also be subject to a change in approach of its scrutiny, from a peer challenge based format to one seeing the reintroduction of an Inspectorate, which will inform the Authority as to how the performance of the organisation is to be assessed and benchmarked within the Fire sector. By understanding and considering this should assist the Authority in developing its key objectives.

- 2.4 Members will also be aware that the Service is developing a new Performance Management Framework, being complimentary to the IRMP process and enabling the Authority to demonstrate both transparency and those areas of continued improvement.
- 2.5 Over coming months Officers will develop the contents of the Corporate Plan, taking into account the current, predicted operating environment, impact of the Policing and Crime Act and wider fire sector reform agenda.
- 2.6 The draft Corporate Plan will initially be presented to a future meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee for it to scrutinise, with an anticipated recommendation to the Fire Authority, followed by publication for consultation.
- 2.7 Officers will ensure the Authority's consultation framework is used during the process, having been built upon national good practice. Based upon the timelines in this report it is expected that the final version of the Corporate Plan will be adopted by the Fire Authority during 2018/19.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no additional implications arising directly from this report as the IRMP process is already part of the Service's functions, however once endorsed the draft Corporate Plan will be published for consultation and this will incur financial cost.
- 3.2 A budget is already in place for consultation and will be utilised to support the Authority, including the need to appoint additional expertise as appropriate. Officers will provide a breakdown of the proposed methods for consultation and costs as part of the report to December's Authority meeting.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no human resources or learning and development implications arising from this report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken because this report does not amend existing policy or service provision.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The development of the Authority's next Corporate Plan ensures that it fully discharges its legal duties under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and be well placed to take into consideration the revised National Framework once this is published following initial consultation by Government.
- 7.2 The recent introduction of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 will also enable wider consideration as to the content of the IRMP and assure the Authority it discharges the duties expected of it by this new statute.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

This report does not present any additional risk implications for the Authority at this point as it seeks only to communicate the intention to commence the development of the next IRMP. The process itself is designed to identify all foreseeable risk for the fire and rescue service and how the organisation will seek to meet that risk, for example, within local communities or how it supports aspects of national resilience, and Members will be updated on these through the IRMP and supporting report.

9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

Whilst the IRMP process is a specific duty for the Authority, it is widely accepted and expected that a collaborative approach should be taken in its development, engaging with partners and communities as appropriate to better understand a more holistic picture, for example, the Local Resilience Forum as part of the Community Risk Register (CRR). This good practice approach will ensure that demands facing partners is fully reflected and supported by any future Corporate Plan.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members request that the Chief Fire Officer presents a draft Corporate Plan to a future meeting of the Policy and Strategy committee.

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

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER