

INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION 2009

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Following the completion of the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2009-2012 consultation exercise, this report summary will set out the findings highlighted during the consultation period. The consultation exercise was carried out as a requirement of the Fire Service National Framework.

BACKGROUND

Since April 2004, every Fire and Rescue Authority has produced a local IRMP that sets out the Authority's strategy in collaboration with other agencies to:

- Reduce the number and severity of fires, and in collaboration with other agencies, road traffic collisions and other emergency incidents occurring in the area for which it is responsible.
- Reduce the severity of injuries in fires, road traffic collisions and other emergency incidents.
- Reduce commercial, economic and social impact and other emergency incidents.
- Safeguard the environment and heritage (both built and natural)
- Provide value for money.

An IRMP must outline both an Authority's assessment of local risk to life and how it plans to deploy its resources to tackle the risks and improve safety throughout the community. The IRMP should identify the ways in which the authority can work in partnership with neighbouring authorities and other agencies to deliver improved public safety. It must also set out the targets an authority has set itself and the standards it will apply to meet the specific pattern of local risk. This will be done in the context of its statutory duty to secure continuous improvement and should achieve Best Value for its local council taxpayers.

In summary, Fire and Rescue Authorities must each have in place an IRMP which reflects local needs and which sets out plans to tackle both existing and potential risks to communities. They should also:

- Produce annual action plans on which they have fully consulted their local communities.
- Have regard to central government guidance in producing their plans.
- Make efficient and effective use of resources to implement the IRMP and action plan, including using more efficient working practices where appropriate.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

The 2009 IRMP consultation process took place between Monday 28th September and Friday 8th January 2010, during which the following consultation methods were used:

- **Surveys-** A survey was placed on the TWFRS Website and in GP surgeries in order to gain public feedback on the IRMP proposals.
- **Public Meetings/Focus groups-** Three public meetings were held in the Birtley area to obtain feedback on the proposals in addition to two focus groups which were carried out utilising members of the Northumbria Police Citizen's Panel as stakeholders.
- **Staff Focus Groups-** Three focus groups were carried out with staff to both inform and obtain feedback on the IRMP proposals.
- **LSP presentations-** A presentation was carried out to each Local Strategic partnership by each District manager. This was to obtain feedback from a partnership perspective.

FEEDBACK

Low Activity Staffing- Stakeholders were generally accepting of this proposal however, there were some concerns regarding the work life balance available due to the long hours that would be spent at the station.

Retained Appliance- Stakeholders were generally accepting of this proposal, however, there were concerns regarding the level of risk in Birtley due to the amount of industry in the area.

Review of Community Safety- Stakeholders were generally accepting of the proposals. There were suggestions amongst stakeholders that greater emphasis on partnerships could reduce overall costs from the Fire and Rescue Service.

Review of Back Office Functions- Stakeholders expressed concerns regarding cuts and felt that if too many cuts were made at present, any future targets would be impossible to achieve.