

Item 11

Surrey Fire and Rescue's Integrated Risk Management Plan

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE IN
SURREY HEATH**

2nd December 2004

KEY ISSUE:

To update Members on Surrey Fire and Rescue's Integrated Risk Management Plan.

SUMMARY:

The first Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) was approved in March 2004. This report asks Members to comment on the proposals for the second year of the IRMP.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Surrey Heath Local Committee comments on the proposals for year two.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. In March 2004 Surrey County Council's Executive Committee approved our first Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), which was developed to reflect the changing role of the modern fire service in Surrey and had one aim - to make our communities safer.
2. Previously, a legislative framework that restricted the Service's ability to react to changes in community risk has governed the Fire Service. Last year's publication of the Government's White Paper 'Our Fire and Rescue Service' addressed this and the way that the fire service operates has and continues to, undergo an exciting modernisation process.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

What have we done following Year One?

3. The Service has started implementing the changes outlined in the 2004/05 plan. These include:
 - Appointing a Community safety co-ordinator for Runnymede,
 - Providing a trained arson advisor (Firewise) available for each fire station area
 - Making the secondment of an officer to the Youth Offending Team a permanent arrangement.
 - Changing the vehicle disposition at Chertsey fire station so that the Ariel Ladder Platform is more immediately available.

- Adapting the way we work at Haslemere & Walton fire stations so firefighters can dedicate more time to the community in prevention and protection activities such as working with young people, carrying out Home fire risk assessments or advising owners of commercial premises, whilst still being available to fulfil our vital emergency response role.
4. Almost at the same time as the 2004/05 plan was approved, the Service started work on preparing the draft plan for 2005/06. The focus on minimising the risk of emergencies occurring in the first place and ensuring that a fast, effective professional response is delivered when needed continues. This approach has now been placed on a statutory footing with the enactment of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 Surrey County Council (our Fire Authority) will review the draft plan and we will then begin our Consultation process.

What are the proposals for Year two?

Proposal 1 - Implement the Government's Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) toolkit to provide a quantitative analysis of the local risk profile within Surrey. This will allow Borough and District teams to improve the delivery of service at a local level, to achieve our aim of reducing community risk. It will also provide the opportunity for risk-based analysis on the positioning of Fire Stations and other resources to achieve efficient, effective and economic deployment over future years.

Proposal 2 - In support of proposal 1, we will enhance our Information and Communications Technology systems to improve our data handling and statistical analysis abilities. This will allow our Borough and District teams to improve the delivery of service at a local level and reduce community risk.

Proposal 3 - Develop flexible working systems for all staff, such as part-time working, to enable staff to work effectively with a preferred work-life balance, taking into account financial resources, service delivery requirements and regional or national guidance.

Proposal 4 - Develop systems and processes in line with the national Integrated Personal Development System (IPDS) to ensure the competence and development of our staff and to support the new regional working arrangements.

Proposal 5 - Undertake a Best Value review of existing domestic and administrative arrangements on our fire stations to enable better use of our resources.

Proposal 6 - Undertake a Best Value review of the current Service arrangements for occupational health provision in line with regional guidance, to improve and maintain our staff welfare.

Proposal 7 - Develop the Borough and District working arrangements to reduce the locally identified risk by active engagement with others, such as Crime and Disorder partners. These risks will include heritage, environmental and transport issues that have previously been outside the Fire Services' remit.

Proposal 8 - Assess and plan for the implementation and consequences of Regional Control Centres, including services that will be maintained locally.

Proposal 9 - More effectively utilise the capacity of firefighters on the retained duty system by increasing the allocation of time given for prevention and protection initiatives.

Proposal 10 - Examine current technology and pilot a new and more efficient method of alerting firefighters on the retained duty system to incidents.

Proposal 11 - Develop community education initiatives, such as Young Firefighters Association, Firewise, Schools Safety Homework and home safety checks, and seek further funding through partnership organisations.

Proposal 12 - Improve our systems to reduce fire crime through our Arson Task Force, initially created using Government funding, which achieved better integration with the police. This will include partnership working, youth education and improved investigation techniques.

Proposal 13 - To further develop existing partnership schemes to improve safety for non-fire related risk, such as water and road safety. This will achieve our legislative duties under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and also meet Surrey County Council's Community Safety strategy.

Proposal 14 - Expand the use of other groups for safety education, such as Care Home visitors, using our programme of safety checks, to target vulnerable members of the community.

Proposal 15 - Influence proposed changes to fire safety legislation and promote the benefits of these changes to educate those affected, such as managers and owners of commercial premises.

Proposal 16 - Develop staff and resources to continue to respond to the Government's resilience agenda, in line with the national and regional framework, providing an appropriate response to New Dimension and Civil Contingencies issues. This should include research into the possible provision of regional New Dimension resources in Surrey.

Proposal 17 - Review our operational approach to rural incidents and those hazards involving water.

Proposal 18 - Extend the provision of defibrillation equipment on our fire engines and community safety vehicles.

Proposal 19 - Explore the opportunities and develop, where appropriate, a co-responder partnership with Surrey Ambulance Service. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service recognise the community benefits of providing a joint response to members of the public who show heart attack symptoms, where the Fire Service may be able to attend more quickly.

CONSULTATION

5. As last year, a thorough and transparent consultation process will commence on 1st November, running until 31st January. There are many ways to comment on the plan. Firstly, communications at meetings such as this one, form part of our consultation process as notes taken are fed back to the IRMP team.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. None

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

7. None

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8. Preventing emergencies is central to everything we do but we will always fulfil our vital intervention role (responding to 999 calls). We are improving our services to make Surrey even safer.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9. None

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Surrey Heath Local Committee comments on the proposals for year two.

LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER: **Martin Goad**

TELEPHONE NUMBER: **01737 733714**

BACKGROUND PAPERS: **None**

Number of Annexes: **None**