



Communities Select Committee

8 February 2018

Update on the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Member Reference Group.

Purpose of report:

To provide an update on scrutiny that has been undertaken into the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) as conducted by Members of the Communities Select Committee. Surrey Fire and Rescue Authority published its refreshed Public Safety Plan (the SFRA IRMP) in 2016 outlining its aims and priorities over the next ten years. Following from the proposals set out in the plan the Service is reviewing its response standard and how it responds to incidents. The Service has recently commenced a trial of some new tools and initiatives designed to improve SFRS's efficiency, do it is timely that the Communities Select Committee receives an update from the Members Reference Group.

Introduction:

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan

As part of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the government produces and updates a Fire and Rescue National Framework which sets out what it expects from Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). Part of this framework requires all FRAs to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which will establish how it aims to deliver its core functions to effectively prevent and mitigate the fire and rescue related risks facing their communities

1. In 2016 Surrey Fire and Rescue Authority (SFRA) published their Public Safety Plan 2016- 2025 (PSP) which describes the vision for Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), and established a framework for its future development. This is the IRMP for Surrey. This vision remains largely unchanged; however, within a constantly changing environment both new threats and new opportunities have emerged. SFRS will now be setting out detailed plans within a new IRMP, outlining how the service will respond and adapt to these changes. SFRS Public Safety Plan 2016 – 2025 can be found at the following link:

https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/87341/Public-Safety-Plan-2016-to-2025.pdf

SFRS Integrated Risk Management Plan Member Reference Group:

2. At SFRS's request, the Communities Select Committee agreed to establish a Member Reference Group (MRG) to provide Member-led support and engagement in the design and delivery of the SFRS's new IRMP. The Terms of Reference for the

MRG were agreed at the Communities Select Committee meeting on 7 September 2017 and commit the MRG to:

- a. Question/challenge officers around changes being considered and identify any further information which might be required, to ensure the new IRMP is as open and comprehensive as possible.
 - b. Provide regular findings reports to the main committee outlining the work completed at each MRG meeting, and progress on the overall project.
 - c. Suggest recommendations back to the main committee to establish further areas for formal scrutiny and focussed work for the MRG.
 - d. Lead the discussion when the draft and final IRMP is discussed by the Communities Select Committee, ensuring that other Members have a good understanding and can make informed decisions.
3. The MRG is comprised of the following Members: Saj Hussain (Chairman), Bob Gardner, Alison Griffiths and Keith Witham. Ms Rachael I. Lake also attends meetings where possible. The MRG has met twice since it was first established and this report represents its first update to the Communities Select Committee.
4. The MRG has requested updates and additional information on how SFRS intends to propose the efficiencies required to deliver an effective operating model within the allocated budget subject to consultation and agreement by Cabinet. This report provides an update on key areas that the MRG has focused on since it was established last September.

Scrutinising the Initial Response Vehicle Trial

5. Initial Response Vehicles (IRVs) are a proposal to create an innovative operating model that will enable SFRS to respond to the changing nature and type of incidents that its Service responds to. Members heard that the operational capability of IRVs could provide a range of benefits by diversifying the vehicles available to the Service, giving flexibility to respond most effectively to differing incident types. Officers highlighted that IRVs could, in tandem with intelligence-led mobilising, reduce the number of instances where too many resources were sent to an incident. The introduction of IRVs could help SFRS to achieve efficiencies by reducing the number of resource intensive mobilisations, using the IRVs to attend smaller incidents as an alternative to an orthodox fire engine.
6. Members sought further information on the progress of the IRV trial which began on 8 January 2018. The MRG was advised that the initial part of the trial was a familiarisation period enabling fire officers to get used to the new equipment. At the time of the last MRG meeting on 23 January 2018, the IRV had responded to three incidents and on all of these callouts the IRV had been accompanied by a fully crewed fire engine to ensure the safety of those attending the incident and members of the public while the operational capability of the IRV is being tested. Officers advised that the second IRV would become operational in February 2018 and that the two IRVs would be moved around different stations across the County, undertaking familiarisation sessions for operational staff, during the course of the trial period ensuring proper testing of their operational capabilities.
7. Additional detail was sought on how the purchase of the new IRVs was being funded by SFRS given the savings the service was required to make within the MTFP. Officers advised that the cost of vehicles was covered from the existing Vehicle and

Equipment Replacement Fund while training costs came from the Service's existing training budget. The MRG also heard that at least 20 uniformed staff will crew the vehicles during the trial, using a combination of day work and fire station based personnel. This approach ensures day work staff can maintain their competence, minimises the impact to crewing at fire stations and also ensures the trial is managed within the Service's financial constraints.

8. Members requested more detail on the future deployment of IRVs in Surrey following the conclusion of the trial period. They were informed that the outcomes of the trial would influence any decisions on the future use and deployment of the vehicles in Surrey although the trial may result in options for response changes. Changes to the fire cover or response standard changes would be subject to public consultation. It was agreed that the Communities Select Committee would be given the opportunity to review the outcomes of the trial and any future proposals for deploying IRVs more widely in Surrey that may arise from the pilot.

The Dynamic Cover Tool

9. The MRG also reviewed the implementation of the Dynamic Cover Tool (DCT) that was also being used by SFRS to improve efficiency by assisting in the mobilisation of staff and officers in dynamic and deliberate fire cover arrangements. It also provides a real-time overview of where crewed fire appliances are located in Surrey and gives officers information on the level of risk within different parts of the County. The DCT also provides information on how moving fire appliances to different parts of the County may impact on response times.
10. More information was sought on the potential of the DCT to create further improvements and efficiencies in how fire cover was spread across the County. Officers indicated that the capacity of the DCT to forecast fire risk within Surrey would, in the future, assist the Fire and Rescue Service in placing people and assets where they are most needed. Looking towards a future of borderless fire cover arrangements, the DCT would also be able to factor in calculations on risk from the impact of fire appliances in stations outside of Surrey could have an impact on mobilisation.

Standard Response Review

11. The MRG heard that a review of SFRS's response standard was planned which would involve consulting with the public on where specific types of fire response vehicles, with more flexible crewing arrangements, would be situated in the County. It was agreed that the MRG would be given the opportunity to review the options that would be put forward for public consultation once these were known. Members further suggested that SFRS officers liaise with local committees to disseminate information among residents and ensure that the message as to why the standard response review was taking place was correctly communicated. The MRG further requested that they be included in communications and publicity around the introduction of the IRVs.

12. Members asked whether it would be possible for the MRG to compare SFRS's current response standard to those of other fire authorities. Officers advised that it wasn't possible to get an accurate comparison between the response standard for differing fire authorities due to the fact that these were locally agreed and depended on a range of factors including the specific geography of the area covered by the FRA. The MRG was further advised that the time it took to respond to incidents was only one aspect and that SFRS's performance should also be judged against the suitability of the resources that was sent to respond to specific incidents, the outcomes from that incident, as well as the impact of prevention and protection work.

Conclusions:

14. Across the two MRG meetings that have been held so far, Members have been impressed by some of the genuinely innovative ideas that have been developed by SFRS officers to find the efficiencies that will enable the continued provision of safe and effective fire cover despite substantial budgetary pressures. Many of these innovations are still being tested and so their impact on the Service's budget are not yet fully understood. The MRG will also seek to understand within the scope of the Integrated Risk Management Plan future opportunities within the workforce, the impact of prevention initiatives, the changing fire safety environment, as well as the location and deployment of fire appliances.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Communities Select Committee:

- i. notes scrutiny that the Member Reference Group is undertaking of Surrey Fire and Rescue Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan;
- ii. agrees a date to receive a further update from the Member Reference Group; and
- iii. proposes areas of future scrutiny by the Member Reference Group within the remit of its Terms of Reference.

Next steps:

The Sub-Group is meeting again in April 2018 and will continue to scrutinise how SFRS is adapting its operating model to provide effective fire and rescue cover within its agreed budget.

Report contact: Andy Baird, Democratic Services Officer

Contact details: Tel: 0208 541 7609 email: andrew.baird@surreycc.gov.uk

Sources/background papers:

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Public Safety Plan 2016 – 2025

https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/87341/Public-Safety-Plan-2016-to-2025.pdf

Department of Communities and Local Government Integrated Risk Management Planning
Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/integrated-risk-management-planning-guidance>

Annexes:

None

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