

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Authority Safety Plan 2011/2014

Report by the Chief Fire Officer and Director of Community Protection

Summary:

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Authority has a statutory duty to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) covering at least a three-year period. The IRMP must be regularly reviewed and revised, reflecting up to date risk information and evaluation of service delivery outcomes. Norfolk's IRMP is called Norfolk Fire and Rescue Authority Safety Plan.

This report sets out seven proposals to change the way the Fire and Rescue Service delivers services and meets emergency response standards.

Members of the Panel are requested to consider the proposals in this report and endorse which proposals they consider the Cabinet Member should recommend to Cabinet for approval for public consultation.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the National Framework 2008/11 require the Council, as the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Authority, to prepare and publish an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). The IRMP is a strategic plan that sets out the Fire and Rescue Service's objectives for at least a three year period. Norfolk's IRMP is called Norfolk Fire and Rescue Authority Safety Plan.
- 1.2 It is important that IRMPs take an appropriately strategic view of service planning and development and are properly integrated with the Council's other business planning processes. A more substantial review began in the spring of 2009 to produce a Safety Plan 2011/2014. This Safety Plan will be a fundamental review of the existing plan first introduced in 2004/05.
- 1.3 The Service has some internal capacity to undertake the specialist data analysis required to complete a full risk review of the county but this is limited. NFRS has therefore been supported in this review work by specialist consultants ORH Limited, who have undertaken a detailed study using analytical and modelling methods to assist in planning future developments in station configuration, and in the deployment of personnel and appliances, to provide effective, efficient and equitable risk and response cover across the county. ORH has extensive

experience in the field of Fire and Rescue Service development and have worked with a significant number of Fire and Rescue Authorities and a number of Ambulance Services throughout the country.

- 1.4 ORH produced a detailed analysis of the current service delivery profile. Their task has been to identify and evaluate options for station locations and appliance deployments that provide efficient and effective fire cover in Norfolk, including detailed work in relation to specific service areas.
- 1.5 In July 2009, the Fire and Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Panel agreed to set up a cross-party member working group to provide appropriate Member engagement as proposals were developed. Over the course of five meetings, a series of proposals have been developed and examined, supported by data from ORH. Final recommendations were established for consideration by the working group which form the basis for this report and are set out in more detail in Appendix A.

2. Contents of Report

- 2.1 This report sets out the recommendations which the Cross Party Member Working Group, supported by senior officers, believe can form the basis of a realistic and workable Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2011/14.
- 2.2 The Authority has to be confident that the prevention, protection and response activities of the Service will be best used to mitigate the impact of risk on communities in a cost effective way.
- 2.3 The recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation 1

Withdraw the current response standard for 2nd appliance performance for '*Other - Life risk*' incidents.

Recommendation 2

Withdraw the current standard for 2nd appliance performance for '*Fire - Other*' incidents.

Recommendation 3

Adopt standards for Incident Command response as part of Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service's suite of Emergency Response Standards.

Recommendation 4

Enhance service provision to King's Lynn by establishing an additional service delivery point at King's Lynn East (this will be subject to capital funding approval).

Recommendation 5

Change provision to Great Yarmouth/Gorleston by redeploying wholetime staff and one appliance to Gorleston station and replacing current Retained Duty System (RDS) crew.

Recommendation 6

Replace second pumping appliances from 6 x 2-pump RDS stations with rural fire fighting appliances.

Recommendation 7

Replace the current two appliance station at Bethel Street with a single appliance station at Carrow in 2011.

In all seven recommendations above, the alternative default option remains status quo.

- 2.4 The Fire and Rescue Authority has a statutory duty to undertake a public consultation on any proposals that the Authority intends to implement. It is envisaged that a three month consultation period will run during Summer 2010.
- 2.5 Cabinet will consider in April which, if any, of the proposals, should be submitted for public consultation.
- 2.6 Following the period of public consultation, a report with the results of the consultation will be brought back to this Panel in September 2010. Final recommendations for the Safety Plan 2011/2014 will then be taken to Cabinet in October 2010, for final agreement and implementation from April 2011.

3. Resource Implications

- 3.1 **Finance:** Recommendations 4 and 5 will have cost implications. Recommendation 4 would involve a capital investment to provide new premises. Recommendations 4 and 5 would each involve an increase in 4 Watch Manager posts.
- 3.2 Recommendations 5 would involve a reduction in 14 firefighter posts, and a reduction of a further 12 posts would take place if recommendation 6 were adopted.

- 3.3 Recommendation 7, if accepted, would, at current staffing levels, have the potential to generate an overall reduction of 24 whole-time (WDS) firefighter posts (see appendix A).

4. Other Implications

- 4.1 **Equal Opportunities:** An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out on each of the Recommendations that are finally approved by Cabinet later this year.
- 4.2 **Communications:** A communications plan has been put in place to ensure that consultation is conducted with staff and the wider community in line with County Council policy.

5. Section 17 - Crime and Disorder Act

- 5.1 The Norfolk Fire and Rescue Authority Safety Plan contains a number of specific measurable activities designed to reduce the occurrence of arson. The recommendations contained within this report do not have a direct impact on the Fire and Rescue Service's activities under the Crime and Disorder Act.

6. Risk Implications

- 6.1 The Fire and Rescue Service has risk assessed the change proposals contained within this report and placed it on the Service's Risk Register.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 This report sets out proposals for the Fire and Rescue Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan 2011/14. The seven recommendations identify better ways of working and improvements in service delivery whilst also meeting some of the public sector budget pressures.

8. Action Required

Members are invited to consider the proposed options regarding the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2011/2014.

Following consideration, Members are asked to advise the Cabinet Member on seeking approval to undertake the recommendations as an integral part of public consultation on the IRMP.

Any recommendations approved by Cabinet will subsequently be taken forward to public consultation by the Fire and Rescue Service's Service Executive Team.

Background Papers

Appendix A - Proposals for Integrated Risk Management Plan Revisions 2011/14.

Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

Officer Name: Mike McCarthy (Deputy Chief Fire Officer)
Tel No: 01603 819753
e-mail address: michael.mccarthy@fire.norfolk.gov.uk



If you need this report in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact Karen Tyrrell 01603 810351 or minicom 01603 223833 and we will do our best to help.