

**NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT**

DATE:	20 th September 2004
REPORT BY:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To inform Members of the requirements of the second year of Integrated Risk Management Planning, suggest areas for development and further exploration, and authorise the Executive Panel to develop the proposals and consult with the public.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In December 2002 the Deputy Prime Minister made it clear that there should be a programme of reform and modernisation of the framework within which the fire and rescue service operates. A key element of that programme was the need to produce fire authority Integrated Risk Management Plans (IRMPs).
- 1.2 Members of the Executive Panel met regularly as a working group between June and October 2003 to develop the Authority's first IRMP. The draft IRMP was subsequently published, consulted upon, amended and finally endorsed and adopted by the Fire Authority in March 2004.
- 1.3 The purpose of this paper is to inform members of the requirements of IRMP in its second year and propose subject areas for development by the Executive Panel that would build on and consolidate the improvements identified and implemented from the initial IRMP. Once satisfied with the subject areas, the Executive Panel would initiate public consultation.

2. **OVERVIEW**

- 2.1 As with the first IRMP, there is a requirement to carry out public consultation on the action plan. However, the year two action plan is expected to complement and carry forward the findings of the first IRMP, not to fundamentally change or replace it.
- 2.2 The recent local elections and the consequential changing profile of the Fire Authority has led to a condensing of the process within the time scale available in which to produce the second year IRMP action plan.
- 2.3 Therefore out of necessity, and in contrast to the first IRMP, subject areas are being suggested to Members. The intention is that the Executive Panel develop the subject areas further to ensure consistency with both the Fire Authority's strategic objectives and the Draft Fire and Rescue Service National Framework for Wales.

3. **SUBJECT AREAS**

The following subject areas would build on and complement the Fire Authority's existing IRMP:-

- 3.1 Develop a tiered Community Fire Safety planning regime as part of the new management structure that focuses on life safety and specific risks and ensures tailor-made planning within each unitary authority area.
- 3.2 Develop the Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) model provided by ODPM to build an intelligence base to inform strategic decision making, resource placement and deployment. FSEC was provided to fire and rescue services just prior to the completion of the first IRMP process.
- 3.3 Seek opportunities for collaboration with our neighbouring fire and rescue services in order to maximise the extent to which current and future action plans and risk management within Cheshire, Shropshire and Mid and West Wales both inform and complement actions and risk management within North Wales. This is an area of activity that is generally highlighted by both ODPM and the Audit Commission.
- 3.4 Fully adopt and utilise the fire safety inspection guidance provided by ODPM which focuses on life risk and the introduction of the Regulatory Reform Order which will fundamentally change legislation on fire safety. The introduction of a new supplementary internal audit process would promote consistency and quality in the fire safety function across the whole of North Wales.
- 3.5 Utilise IT software available to the Service to enhance operational service delivery by adopting street mobilising rather than the current system of parish mobilising. This will ensure the nearest most appropriate resource is sent to an incident.
- 3.6 Review the allocation of operational personnel to ensure a consistent approach across North Wales to the crewing of frontline and special appliances.
- 3.7 Further develop collaborative work with the other emergency services in North Wales and investigate areas that would benefit from joint initiatives and management to secure shared outcomes.

4. **CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The subject areas above are intended to carry forward the Fire Authority's existing IRMP and should be seen as additions to the process.
- 4.2 Consultation with the support team set up by ODPM to assist fire and rescue services with the IRMP process confirmed that the requirement in year 2 was to produce an action plan. There is no requirement to produce a full IRMP.
- 4.3 Consultation on the action plan will replicate the Fire Authority's first IRMP consultation "Having Your Say", adopting a timescale that would assist the Authority's financial planning.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 Members note the contents of the report.

5.2 Members authorise the Executive Panel to develop the proposed subject areas making such amendments, additions and alterations as they deem appropriate and once satisfied consult the public on the second year action plan.