

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

DATE:	26 <sup>th</sup> October 2005
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PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To inform Members of the requirements of the third year of Integrated Risk Management Planning and suggest areas for development and further exploration prior to submission to the Fire and Rescue Authority.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In December 2002 the Deputy Prime Minister made clear that there should be a programme of reform and modernisation of the framework within which the fire & 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 original IRMP was quickly followed by a second year action plan in October 2004 which sought to build on the strategic aims and objectives of the original plan.
- 1.4 The purpose of this paper is to inform members of the requirements of IRMP in its third year and suggest some subject areas that would build on and consolidate the improvements identified and implemented from the preceding IRMPs.

2. **OVERVIEW**

- 2.1 Since the publication of the second year action plan Fire and Rescue, has become a devolved matter to the Welsh Assembly Government. This is important to note as the IRMP process, and to a certain extent its direction, was previously influenced by comprehensive guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

## 2. **OVERVIEW** *(continued)*

- 2.2 To date there has been no specific guidance on IRMPs from the Welsh Assembly Government and Members will be aware of recent correspondence from the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration to the Chairman on IRMPs. This correspondence, reported to Members at July's Executive Panel, requests that consideration is given to the deferral of certain elements of IRMP activity involving the permanent reallocation of resources. This is until such time as the Assembly has indicated its intentions regarding the revision of guidance.
- 2.3 Another significant factor affecting the production of an IRMP this year is the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment in its National Framework to a response standard. The Assembly have intimated that the development of a response standard is a prerequisite to IRMP guidance. The release of a response standard is thought to be imminent and may have a significant impact on resource placement.
- 2.4 Given these factors a third year action plan, while building on previous IRMPs, will be understandably limited. Members may wish, although there is no definitive guidance, that the third year action plan should be subject to public consultation in the same manner as the second year action plan.

## 3. **SUBJECT AREAS**

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

- 3.1 Implementation of the recommendation of the special appliance review covering dual role appliances, aerial appliances and emergency tenders.
- 3.2 Charging for attendance to repeat false alarms on automatic fire alarm systems.
- 3.3 Trial Co-responding in collaboration with Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust at specific fire stations across North Wales.
- 3.4 Targeting and prioritising community fire safety arrangements for properties across North Wales which are more than a twenty minute travel time from their nearest fire station.
- 3.5 Research the feasibility of an automatic location provision for improved resource allocation. This could result in the dynamic mobilisation of managers and wholetime appliances to incidents.
- 3.6 To provide a performance monitoring framework with a public and organisational interface which is easy to use and easy to access.
- 3.7 Review the effectiveness of the current operational manager provision across North Wales.

## 4. **CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The subject areas above are intended to carry forward the Fire and Rescue Authority's existing IRMPs and should be seen as additions to the process.

4. **CONCLUSIONS** *(continued)*

- 4.2 Members may have a view that providing guidance is received from the Assembly on IRMPs and response standards the next IRMP in 2006/7 is a complete and comprehensive review of the Authority.
- 4.3 Consultation on the action plan will replicate the Fire and Rescue Authority's second IRMP action plan "Your Service, Your Safety, Your Voice", following the time protocols utilised by the Assembly.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 Members note the contents of the report.
- 5.2 Members consider what additions, amendments or alterations should be recommended to the full Fire Authority in December for inclusion in the draft third year action plan in preparation for consultation.
- 5.3 Subject to guidance Members commit to a comprehensive IRMP for 2006/7.