



**CABINET – 22 NOVEMBER 2019**

**RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON LEICESTERSHIRE FIRE AND  
RESCUE SERVICE INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020 -  
2024**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**PART A**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval for the County Council's response to the consultation issued by the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service relating to its Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2020-2024.

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that the response set out in Appendix B to this report be approved for submission to the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service as the views of the County Council.

**Reasons for Recommendation**

3. To enable the views of the County Council to be submitted to the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

**Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)**

4. The Scrutiny Commission considered the matter on 6 November 2019 and its comments are set out in Part B of this report.
5. Subject to approval by the Cabinet, the County Council's response will be submitted before the consultation deadline of 25 November 2019.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

6. The Scrutiny Commission was consulted on the current Integrated Risk Management Plan 2016-20 and considered this at meetings on 4 and 9 November 2015. Comments were submitted to the Cabinet and, due to the controversial nature of the proposals at that time, a debate was held at the full Council meeting in December 2015.

7. The Combined Fire Authority approved the proposals in the IRMP 2020-24 for consultation at its meeting on 19 June 2019.

### **Resource Implications**

8. There are no direct resource implications for the County Council arising from these proposals.

### **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

9. None.

### **Officer(s) to Contact**

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## **PART B**

### **Background**

10. An IRMP must assess all foreseeable fire and rescue-related risks to local communities and put in place arrangements to respond to and deal with them. It must cover at least a three-year period, be regularly reviewed, reflect local risk, be developed through consultation and be accessible and cost-effective. The planning process should also have regard for cross border, multi-agency risks and national incidents.
11. When the Fire and Rescue Service develops an IRMP it engages with multiple partners and uses a variety of sources to review existing risks and identify new ones. These sources include: historical incident data, demographic data, performance data, high risk location information and local development strategies. The impact of wider changes in society, including government policy, economic growth and technological progress, is also considered.
12. For emergency response capability, the key areas considered are: availability of resources, response times to incidents and the individual station demand profiles. The Fire and Rescue Service also considers its prevention and protection activities in its future planning, reviewing the use and allocation of available resources to mitigate the impact of identified risks.
13. All this data and information helps the Fire and Rescue Service to understand the needs of its communities, identify locations of potential peak demand, and assess its capacity to respond. It is also used to anticipate trends that may result in an increase in demand as well as opportunities to reduce the current levels.
14. The current IRMP was consulted on in 2016 and is valid until 2020. Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service has completed all the agreed changes, including: implementing the Day Crewing Plus (DCP) duty system in Wigston, the Day Crewing (DC) duty system at Market Harborough and Lutterworth and introducing the five Tactical Response Vehicles (TRVs) at various locations within the service.
15. Appendix A to this report provides the detail on how the 2020-2024 IRMP has been constructed and some of the high-level data used to identify and support the proposals.

### **Proposals within the IRMP**

16. The proposals within the IRMP are:
  - i. To use fire engines flexibly, aiming to attend life threatening incidents in an average of 10 minutes;
  - ii. To use fire fighters efficiently and flexibly to maximise our appliance availability;

- iii. To purchase a second high-reach appliance to replace the older one of the two vehicles;
- iv. To continue to undertake education and enforcement activities, targeting those most at risk;
- v. To continue to collaborate with other blue light services and partner agencies to support the purpose of safer people, safer places;
- vi. To enable staff to do the right thing to help communities;
- vii. To implement alternative crewing arrangements in the event of the Service moving away from the current Day Crewing Plus duty system.

17. More detail on these proposals is given in Appendix A.

### Consultation

18. Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service is undertaking a 12-week public consultation on the IRMP which began on 3 September and will close on 25 November 2019. Consultation feedback will be presented to the Combined Fire Authority at an extra-ordinary meeting on 22 January 2020 and a formal consultation summary report will be presented to its meeting on 5 February 2020, where it will be asked to agree which proposals should be progressed.

### Comments of the Scrutiny Commission

19. The Scrutiny Commission considered the proposed response to the consultation at its meeting on 6 November. In response to members' questions and comments the Commission was advised that -
- a) The work undertaken by Firefighters as First Responders was done on a voluntary basis in support of the Ambulance Service and should not be seen as a replacement for the Ambulance Service;
  - b) Where a firefighter undertook to assist or support members of the public in an emergency which is not directly related to the work of the Service they would be covered for insurance purposes so long as they had notified 'Control';
  - c) Negotiations were underway with recognised Trade Unions on moving away from the current Day Crewing Plus duty system. The Fire Brigades Union was insisting that such negotiations should be conducted at national and not at local level and this issue has now been referred to the Joint Secretaries. There were a significant number of firefighters who were working or willing to work to new arrangements and it was hoped agreement could be reached on a new duty system.
  - d) Some firefighters and Unions remained concerned about the use of Tactical Fire Vehicles. These had been introduced to supplement the existing fleet of Fire Engines and the current IRMP did not propose any reduction in the number of Fire Engines. Since the introduction of Tactical Fire Vehicles there has been an improvement in response times particularly in rural areas;

- e) The estate was reviewed regularly, and the most recent review concluded that the current Fire Stations were in the right locations to serve the needs of the area. The estate was reviewed on a regular basis and new and proposed developments considered in such reviews. A number of Fire Stations required works to be undertaken and new location is being sought for the training centre. It should be noted that the Estates review sat outside the IRMP;
- f) Whilst there was no legal requirement to attend flooding incidents the Service would continue to do so;
- g) When fire engines were involved in an incident the Control room would redeploy resources based on a risk assessment to ensure cover;
- h) The Home Office was conducting a review of the specialist vehicles currently located at Southern Fire Station. These vehicles were part of the National Resilience Asset.

### Draft Response

- 20. The draft response attached at Appendix B has been compiled following feedback on the proposals from County Council Departments and consideration by the Scrutiny Commission.

### Equality and Human Rights Implications

- 21. Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service will undertake an Equality Impact Assessment on all approved proposals.

### Background Papers

Report to the Combined Fire Authority 19 June 2019 – Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-2024 – Proposals

<https://leics-fire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/irmp-2020-2024-proposals-final.pdf>

<https://leics-fire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/appendix-a-irmp-2020-2024-proposals-document-final.pdf>

### Appendices

Appendix A – Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020-2024 Consultation Proposals  
Appendix B – Leicestershire County Council's Draft Response

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