WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
SOCIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21 JANUARY 2019
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (HOUSING AND COMMUNITY)

HERTFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019-2023 CONSULTATION

1 Executive Summary

1.1 This report sets out a high level summary of the draft document (Integrated Risk Management Plan) regarding the fire and rescue service, published for consultation by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) on 12 December 2018.

1.2 The consultation closes on 6 March 2019 and members of the committee are asked to consider whether they wish to submit a collective response and if so, the nature of the response

1.3 As part of the consultation process, a questionnaire is published on the HCC website. The questions are attached at Appendix A.

1.4 The full consultation document can be found on Hertfordshire County Council's website via this link Integrated Risk Management Plan consultation document

2 Recommendation(s)

2.1 Members to note the content of the report

2.2 Members to consider whether they wish to submit a collective response to the consultation on the Integrated Risk Management Plan consultation

2.3 Subject to the decision on recommendation 2.2, members to agree the response to this consultation

3 Explanation

3.1 Hertfordshire Fire Authority is the publicly accountable body consisting of elected councillors from across Hertfordshire. The authority manages the fire and rescue service on behalf of the communities of Hertfordshire. Hertfordshire fire and rescue service (HFRS) is part of the Community Protection Directorate which is one of the six Directorates within HCC. HFRS is led by the Chief Fire Officer; assisted by the Strategic Leadership Group

3.2 The Service operates from 29 fire stations, a headquarters building, training and development centre, and a number of additional sites providing support services. Emergency call handling is provided by a dedicated Hertfordshire based Fire Control building and resilience through the East Coast Fire Control Consortium,

which is delivering interoperability between Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Humberside and Lincolnshire.

3.3   On 12 December 2018, HCC opened a consultation on the draft Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). The consultation closes on 6 March 2019

3.4   The document sets out the current context and performance and future ambitions of the Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service; provides an overview of the current services and relevant legislation which must be considered in delivering services.

3.5   It also highlights the changing operational landscape and sets out how the service may evolve to meet the challenges and realise opportunities.

3.6   The strategic priorities set out in the document are

- prevention, protection and response – build on existing prevention and protection work to help further reduce the number of fires and other types of emergency incidents and continue to provide added social value

- Maximise opportunities to collaborate with emergency service organisations, partner agencies and stakeholders – making use of combined resources and assets to make Hertfordshire the safest county in which to live, work or visit.

- Ensure firefighters are equipped, trained and supported to deliver a safer and more effective operational response

- Ensure our service continues to reform, innovate and evolve to meet the challenges and risks of the 21st century at both a local and national level

3.7   Section Six (Pages 20 – 32) sets out an evaluation of the current service delivery, including numbers of and attendance standards at property fires, road traffic collisions, injuries and deaths from fire, fire protection and prevention.

3.8   Section Seven (Pages 33 – 39) sets out the risk profile, including local and national risk

3.9   Section Eight (Pages 40 – 43) sets out the station locations and profiles

3.10   The IRMP introduces the concept of 2050 planning. This means looking much more long term at the risks as they will develop over time and setting the foundations for IRMPs to come.

3.11   The proposals for change are:

Theme	IRMP Proposal Number	Proposal
Infrastructure	1	To actively seek opportunities to relocate fire resources to the most appropriate locations in order to reflect changes in demography, demand and infrastructure growth

Theme	IRMP Proposal Number	Proposal
Prevention and protection	2	We will continue to support and invest in our wider preventative work, both in terms of community engagement and our role in helping to protect the built environment. We will ensure that the teams engaged in deliver this work are suitable resources and skilled to meet the demands which may arise from future changes in legislation
Emergency Response	3	Based on extensive research already undertaken, we will trial the use of alternative vehicles with different capabilities to traditional fire engines. This would create a mixed fleet of vehicles able to be deployed according to risk, demand and call type
Emergency Response	4	To reduce crewing on Type B fire engines to four firefighters. Spare personnel will be deployed according to the needs of the Service; including to on call stations
Emergency Response	5	To trial the recommendations contained in the On-Call Review including employer supported firefighting and the introduction of more flexible contracts.
Training	6	To invest more in our training provision to ensure that we provide our workforce with ever more realistic and innovative opportunities to support maintenance of competence and skills development
Crewing and staffing arrangements	7	To trial alternative shift systems for station based personnel with a view to finding an approach which accommodates the needs of both the Service and the workforce. We will also explore different options for the provision of flexible duty officer cover and undertake a comprehensive review of the structure of HFRS to ensure form follows function

Implications

4   Legal Implication(s)

4.1   The document sets out the external influences that fire authorities must consider when determining the decision and actions of a fire and rescue service. This includes:

The Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

The Civil contingencies Act 2004

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

The Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) Order 2007

The Localism Act 2011

The Policing and Crime Act 2017

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018

5   Financial Implication(s)

5.1   There are no financial implications for the council arising directly from this report

6   Risk Management Implications

6.1   There are no risk management implications arising directly from this report. The draft Integrated Risk Management Plan, by its very nature, includes detailed information about risk factors and how it is proposed that these are managed/mitigated.

7   Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

7.1   There are no security and terrorism implications arising directly from this report

8   Procurement Implication(s)

8.1   There are no procurement implications arising directly from this report

9   Climate Change Implication(s)

9.1   There are no climate change implications arising directly from this report

10   Human Resources Implication(s)

10.1   There are no human resource implications for this council arising from this report.

11   Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

11.1 The report sets out the proposed Integrated Risk Management Plan 2019-2023 for Hertfordshire fire and rescue service. The nature of these services has a direct implication for health and well being

12   Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

12.1 There are no implications arising from this report

13   Link to Corporate Priorities

13.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority 'Our Community'.

14   Equality and Diversity

14.1 An EqIA was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

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Date	7 January 2019

Background papers to be listed (if applicable)

Appendices to be listed

Appendix A – consultation questionnaire (copy)