

LEICESTERSHIRE

FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE

Status of Report:

Public

Agenda Item:

12

Meeting: Combined Fire Authority

Date: 11th February 2015

Subject: Organisational Change Project – Integrated Risk Management Plan Consultation Outcomes

Report by: The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

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For: Decision

1. Purpose

This report presents to the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) the outcomes of the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Consultation On Proposals For Change 2015 – 2020 for consideration and decision.

2. Executive Summary

The CFA undertook public consultation on its IRMP proposals between October and December 2014. Responses were received from a wide variety of stakeholders. Qualitative consultation was also undertaken by Opinion Research Services (ORS). A summary of the responses received and a report from ORS are presented for the CFA's consideration and to assist in determining a way forward on the proposals.

3. Report Detail

3.1 In June 2014 the CFA approved recommendations to commence the development of options to address an anticipated budget deficit of approximately £7.5m over the next 5 years. The CFA commenced consultation upon a set of proposals as outlined in the IRMP Consultation Document 2015 – 2020. The consultation period commenced on 20th October 2014 and ended on 31st December 2014, a period of 10 weeks and 3 days.

3.2 **Appendix 1** provides a summary of the documentation relevant to the consultation.

3.3 **Appendix 2** is the report from ORS on the qualitative consultation that they

undertook with the public and stakeholders on the proposals.

- 3.4 In addition, it should be noted that the Fire Brigades' Union (FBU) have written to the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer (CFO) reiterating their health and safety concerns on the proposal to reduce crewing levels from five to four. However, this was received after the consultation period closed.
- 3.5 The consultation included seeking public and political opinion on a potential Council Tax increase above the 2% threshold. This included political lobbying by the CFA and senior officers with the aim of securing special dispensation. Despite local MPs meeting with the Fire Minister in January 2015 no dispensation has been granted by the Government at the date of this report.
- 3.6 Recently Rutland County Council commenced formal consultation on a proposal to offer the CFA £150,000 of financial support over the next two years. An update on this position will be given to the CFA on the 11th February 2015.

4. Report Implications / Impact

4.1 Legal (including crime and disorder)

- a) The consultation has been conducted in accordance with the National Framework and the public law duty of fairness.

4.2 Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)

- a) The financial impacts associated with the proposals are contained within the initial IRMP Consultation On Proposals For Change.
- b) The IRMP consultation costs amount to approximately £50,000 including the work undertaken by ORS.

4.3 Risk (including corporate and operational, health and safety and any impact on the continuity of service delivery)

- a) The management of organisational risk (reputation, regulatory, finance) has been mitigated by employing legal and good practice consultation standards.
- b) Failure to deliver the required financial savings will significantly impact on the ability of the CFA to agree a balanced budget in future years and any delay will compress the available timeframes to achieve the required reductions.

4.4 Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)

Appendix 1 includes an Equality Impact Assessment Report on the proposals (see Annex F).

4.5 Environmental

The consultation process has employed technology in minimising the production of hard copies.

4.6 **Impact upon Our Plan Objectives**

The options set out represent the best fit solution for the CFA.

5. **Recommendations**

The CFA is asked to consider the consultation responses and determine whether or not to approve each of the following proposals:

- a) Remove one fire engine from Oakham Fire & Rescue Station.
- b) Make 4 the standard crewing level across the Service.
- c) Discontinue the Resilience Team.
- d) Change from the current duty system to Day Crewing Plus at Wigston Fire & Rescue Station.
- e) Remove one fire engine from the city area.
- f) Remove one fire engine from Loughborough Fire & Rescue Service
- g) Increase in Council Tax to a level requiring a referendum.

6. **Background Papers**

- a) Organisational Change Project – Balancing The Budget – progress update. (Overview and Scrutiny Report – September 2014)
- b) Organisational Change Project – Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Consultation (CFA Report – September 2014)
- c) Fire & Rescue National Framework For England (DCLG 2012)
- d) Leicestershire FBU Letter (20th January 2015) to the CFO and associated notice regarding crewing levels

7. **Appendices**

1. Public Consultation Summary Report
2. Opinion Research Services (ORS) Report