



Committee report

Committee	FULL COUNCIL
Date	18 SEPTEMBER 2019
Title	FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN AND CONSULTATION
Report of	CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This paper seeks approval to create a fully aligned Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for both the Isle of Wight Council (IWC), acting as the Fire Authority and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA). It also proposes to confirm the appointment of IWC Cabinet member for Community Safety and Public Protection to the shadow combined fire authority on behalf of IWC, when created in April 2020.
2. Both the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (IWFRS) and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) currently share strategic leadership and are set to become a combined fire authority (CFA) in April 2021. As such, a fully aligned IRMP allows for a common strategy to be set aligning both services.
3. Whilst the majority of functions of the IWFRS are executive functions and therefore subject to cabinet approval, the adoption of the IRMP is constitutionally reserved for full council approval.
4. This paper recommends that full council approve the production of a joint IRMP and give permission for this to be taken to formal consultation.
5. Furthermore, it recommends the IWC Cabinet member for Community Safety and Public Protection is appointed to the shadow combined authority

BACKGROUND

6. The IRMP is a strategic document that details the fire authority's direction of travel for the next five years. This document will be underpinned by yearly service plans that detail how the objectives stated within the IRMP will be achieved.
7. HFRS and IWFRS currently share a joint strategic leadership team who are responsible for setting the strategic direction and governance of both HFRS and the IWFRS.

8. HFRS and IWFRS already share a number of functions through the Delivering Differently in Partnership (DDiP) arrangement.
9. On 24 January 2019, both HFRA and IWC agreed to proceed with the proposal to the Home Secretary to create a new CFA for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. This has now been formally approved by the Home Secretary and Home Office officials are beginning the work required to lay this proposal before parliament. All details of the CFA proposals have been previously agreed and can be referenced in the paper noted above.
10. It is anticipated that the new CFA order will be drafted in a manner that will formally create a shadow authority from 1st April 2020. The shadow authority will be a separate entity but solely for the performance of any functions necessary for bringing the scheme into full operation by 1st April 2021. HFRA and IWC will retain responsibility and legal authority for their respective fire and rescue services until 31 March 2021.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

11. HFRA and IWC (acting as the Fire Authority) are due to become a combined fire authority in April 2021. In order to prepare for full combination a Shadow Authority is to be established in April 2020. Following a review of the timescales for combination by the Home Office, the governance route for the IRMP document will need to be approved by IWC and HFRA. The joint IRMP will cover the first four years of the CFA and aligns with strategic plans already in place.
12. The creation of a fully aligned Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for both the Isle of Wight Council (IWC), acting as the Fire Authority and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA) is in line with Corporate Plan outcome of ensuring that “The community feels safe and the Island is resilient”.

CONSULTATION

13. This paper seeks approval to consult on the draft IRMP as attached and the consultation response will be reported to full council when the final IRMP is prepared for adoption.
14. The draft IRMP has been developed through co-production with numerous internal stakeholders to identify areas of strategic focus for HFRA and IWC over the next five years. The stakeholders engaged can be seen in the Project Scoping Document in Appendix A.
15. We have engaged with external partners to seek their views on the IRMP and to ensure alignment with their strategic plans. This engagement is detailed in the Project Scoping Document in Appendix A.
16. Rep Bodies have been engaged with and this will continue throughout the IRMP and consultation process. This engagement is detailed in the Project Scoping Document in Appendix A.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

17. The current financial planning for the IRMP was based on a joint IRMP and consultation. Should a joint IRMP and consultation not be approved, the current cost of undertaking this project would be significantly increased with separate sets of plans and two consultations being required. The costing for consultation and governance planned for the joint IRMP is £20,000.

CARBON EMISSIONS

18. A joint IRMP is a more efficient use of resources than producing two separate plans thus reducing the amount of resources required which will have a minor carbon emission benefit.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

19. Fire and Rescue Authorities have a statutory duty to produce an IRMP every five years to ensure appropriate management of risk and discharge of their duties.
20. Whilst it is permissible to have a fully aligned IRMP until such time as the new CFA comes into existence in April 2021, the statutory responsibility to adopt an IRMP remains with the Council. The adoption of the IRMP by the council is a matter reserved for full council.
21. IRMPs must be taken out to consultation in order to allow those served by both HFRA and IWC to provide feedback on the proposals.
22. A fully aligned IRMP must therefore be consulted on within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

23. The IWC is required to meet statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
24. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the Isle of Wight. No significant impacts to any of the protected characteristics were identified. The Equality Impact Assessment can be found as Appendix D.

OPTIONS

Option 1

To consult on the fully aligned IRMP as attached at appendix B

Option 2

To appoint the IWC Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection to the Combined Fire Shadow Authority when it is created April 2020.

Option 3

Production of separate IRMPs for HFRA and IWC and separate consultations for both.

Option 4

To appoint a different member to the Combined Fire Shadow Authority when it is created April 2020

RISK MANAGEMENT

25. There is the option to separate the two consultations, however, that will lead to increased costs and the risk of the two IRMPs not being completed within the required timeframe.
26. Option 3 would mean a delayed consultation which would create a high risk of being unable to produce an IRMP and have it agreed through governance by April 2020.
27. There is a risk that separate IRMPs could lead to further integration problems following the launch of the CFA in April 2021 with both Services holding different strategic priorities.

EVALUATION

28. A joint IRMP and consultation are being recommended in order to align with HFRS and IWFRS shared strategic leadership, DDIP and the upcoming CFA.
29. A joint plan would be efficient, needing the creation of only one plan and the running of one consultation process. A joint plan would also align with the future requirements of a CFA. The production of a joint IRMP needs to be agreed by IWC and HFRA prior to consultation.
30. Separate IRMPs would inhibit the continuing partnership between the two Services, is more expensive and holds a number of additional risks in relation to alignment of resourcing and operational direction. All of these could hinder the abilities of both Authorities to carry out their functions.
31. This option would be less efficient with the additional costs of producing two plans and needing to run two separate consultations.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

Option 1 To consult on the fully aligned IRMP as attached at appendix B

Option 2 To appoint the IWC Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection to the Combined Fire Shadow Authority when it is created April 2020.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

[Appendix A – Project scoping document](#)

[Appendix B – IRMP consultation document](#)

[Appendix C – Consultation survey](#)

[Appendix D – Isle of Wight Impact Assessment](#)

[Appendix E – Isle of Wight Strategic Assessment of Risk](#)

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