



Committee report

Committee	FULL COUNCIL
Date	26 FEBRUARY 2020
Title	HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES SAFETY PLAN
Report of	THE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This paper seeks approval of the fully aligned Hampshire and Isle of Wight Safety Plan 2020-2025 (Appendix B).
2. This Safety Plan discharges the statutory requirement to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), and if approved, will replace all current plans.
3. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA) and the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) (as the Fire and Rescue Authority for the Isle of Wight) agreed that, due to the imminent Combined Fire Authority (CFA), this would be a fully aligned Safety Plan for both HFRA and the IWC.

BACKGROUND

4. IRMPs are a statutory requirement and set out how the Fire Authority intends to identify, evaluate, assess and control foreseeable risks across the communities it serves.
5. The Safety Plan incorporates the IRMP requirement and the annual Service Plan into a single document. The Safety Plan is a live document which is updated annually. This approach to managing risk in our communities will ensure the Services are able to report on how effective their risk reduction activities are.
6. The new Safety Plan outlines the activities the Services will undertake in support of the IRMP whilst also setting the standard for how our teams will work via our newly agreed values.

7. These values, developed by our teams, underpin the way we work and are a key part of our strategic planning as set out within the Safety Plan.
8. Through our strategic assessment of risks across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, we have set out five strategic priorities to ensure we remain focussed on those issues that are important to all stakeholders:
 - a) Our communities.
 - b) Our people.
 - c) Public value.
 - d) High performance.
 - e) Learning and improving.
9. These priorities identify the strategic direction for both Services and are translated into improvements against which the Services are measured and held to account.
10. For the past five years, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) and the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (IWFRS) have worked in a strategic partnership.
11. A new statutory Combined Fire Authority will be in place in April 2021. As such, both HFRA and IWC agreed (on 25 September and 18 September 2019 respectively) to fully align the Safety Plan allowing for a common strategy to be set across both Services.

SUPPORTING OUR SERVICE PLAN AND PRIORITIES

12. The Safety Plan sets out the strategic direction for the next five years and establishes our priorities. These priorities and the improvements to deliver them are embedded within the Safety Plan.
13. The Safety Plan incorporates what was previously the IRMP and the annual Service Plan into one document.
14. This document ensures that the IWC and HFRA meet their statutory duty to have an IRMP in place which suitably addresses identified risks within the communities they serve.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15. The actions identified within the Safety Plan are subject to specific budget processes and will inform and align with the medium-term financial plan agreed by the Authorities.

CONSULTATION

16. As a public body, we have both a legal and moral obligation to listen to the opinions of those whom we serve. We also believe that consultation with our stakeholders will add considerable value to our future direction; ultimately assuring the quality and suitability of our Safety Plan.

17. HFRA and the IWC undertook joint formal consultation for the IRMP which ran for eight weeks from 30 September to 24 November 2019.
18. The consultation process was facilitated by an external provider, Opinion Research Services (ORS). ORS produced a consultation report of findings which has been circulated to all Authority members to allow them enough time to fully consider the feedback before approving the Safety Plan.
19. The findings from the consultation process have been considered and have influenced the content of the Safety Plan.
20. The Consultation Institute quality assured the process to ensure that every part of our formal consultation met best practice standards.
21. Representative Bodies have been engaged with throughout the process.
22. The 'Consultation Report of Findings' can be found at **Appendix A**.

CARBON EMISSIONS

23. An aligned Safety Plan is a more efficient use of resources than producing two separate plans thus reducing the amount of resources required which had a minor carbon emission benefit.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

24. Fire and Rescue Authorities have a legal obligation to produce an IRMP to ensure appropriate management of risk and discharge of their duties.

Under Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the Secretary of State must prepare a Fire and Rescue National Framework. The Framework:

- Must set out priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities in connection with the discharge of their functions;
- May contain guidance to fire and rescue authorities in connection with the discharge of any of their functions; and
- May contain any other matter relating to fire and rescue authorities or their functions that the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

On the 8 May 2018 the Secretary of State published the Fire and Rescue National Framework (the Framework). Fire and Rescue Authorities must have regard to the framework in exercising their functions.

The Framework provides that each fire and rescue authority is required to produce, amongst other things, an Integrated Risk Management Plan which must:

- Reflect up to date risk analyses including an assessment of all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the area of the authority;

- Demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to prevent fires and other incidents and mitigate the impact of identified risks on its communities, through authorities working either individually or collectively, in a way that makes best use of available resources;
 - Outline required service delivery outcomes including the allocation of resources for the mitigation of risks;
 - Set out its management strategy and risk-based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in accordance with the principles of better regulation set out in the Statutory Code of Compliance for Regulators, and the Enforcement Concordat;
 - Cover at least a three year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as it is necessary to ensure that the authority is able to deliver the requirements set out in this Framework;
 - Reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners; and
 - Be easily accessible and publicly available.
25. The adoption of the IRMP is a non executive function and for Full Council approval.
26. The Safety Plan is subject to the governance and approval arrangements of both the IWC and HFRA.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

27. The Safety Plan has been developed over a period of months and has gone through the following phases; strategic assessment of risk, co-production and engagement, development, appraisal and consultation.
28. Through this process there has been a continual review of the impact on people and consideration has been given to the feedback from the consultation with our staff, stakeholders and the public.
29. Action Hampshire, a not-for-profit organisation, were engaged to check our thinking around protected characteristic and hard to reach groups. They have strong connections and experience with many of our communities. They supported our approach.
30. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and no negative impacts to any of the protected characteristics were identified. The Equality Impact Assessment can be found as **Appendix C**.
31. However, through the plan we are proposing, the risk-based approach to resourcing and prioritising our prevention, protection and response activities, we will have a positive impact upon the most vulnerable in our communities including, but not limited to, those with protected characteristics. This is through more effective targeting and use of shared data to identify, for example, those at greater risk of fires through social isolation and limited mobility.

32. There are no negative impacts from producing an aligned Safety Plan which combines the IRMP and Service Plan into one document. The individual activities within the plan will have their own impact assessments as part of their development.

OPTIONS

33. Option 1 – That Full Council approves the Safety Plan attached as Appendix B.
34. Option 2 – That Full Council make any minor adjustments as necessary.
35. Option 3 – To not approve the Safety Plan attached as Appendix B.

RISK MANAGEMENT

36. Option 2 would mean the Council may not have met its statutory requirement to review and adopt an Integrated Risk Management Plan by April 2020.
37. This would result in non-compliance in the legal obligation for Fire and Rescue Authorities to produce a Safety Plan every five years.
38. This could also be subject to criticism when Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) visit (due to take place from 27 April to 1 May 2020).

EVALUATION

39. The successful delivery of the Safety Plan will be regularly monitored and reported on by the Chief Fire Officer.
40. Progress on deliverables and key actions will be routinely reported to the Authorities (and future CFA including Shadow Authority arrangements) to ensure appropriate accountability is maintained for the discharge of duties as part of the Safety Plan.

CONCLUSION

41. The report and appendices propose approval of the aligned Safety Plan for HFRA and IWC for the five year period 2020-2025.
42. Both Services currently share strategic leadership and are set to be formally joined under a CFA in April 2021, therefore, this approach has been deemed the most effective in ensuring an aligned strategic direction is established for both Services.

RECOMMENDATION

43. Option 1: That Full Council approves the Safety Plan attached as Appendix B.

APPENDICES

44. [Appendix A](#) – Hampshire and Isle of Wight Consultation Report of Findings
45. [Appendix B](#) – Hampshire and Isle of Wight Safety Plan
46. [Appendix C](#) – IWC Impact Assessment

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