

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 11th June 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director Communities

PORTFOLIO: Communities

SUBJECT: Making Cheshire Safer Integrated Risk Management Plan 2013-14 Summary Report

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the outcomes from the consultation that Cheshire Fire Service undertook last year, on proposals set out in the draft Fire Authority Making Cheshire Safer – Integrated Risk Management Plan 2013-14. This consultation document was reported to the Safer Policy and Performance Board at their meeting in November 2012.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That: the Report be noted

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Cheshire Fire Service has developed a Strategy – Planning for a Safer Cheshire, setting out the approach and the direction it intends to take from 2011 – 2015. The Strategy is supported by a series of annual Integrated Risk Management Plans (IRMP). These publications include up to date risk information and outline how resources will be used cost effectively to reduce the potential risk to life in local communities. Cheshire Fire Service published a draft document IRMP, which outlined the proposals for 2013–14 and beyond in September 2012 for consultation. With budget cuts of up to £5 million expected over the next four years, Cheshire Fire Service carried out a fundamental review into how its frontline emergency response service could be delivered most effectively in the future.
- 3.3 Following the three month consultation, Cheshire Fire Authority has now given the go ahead for work to start on a major programme which will see significant changes in how its frontline emergency response service will be provided in the future. The proposals are set out in detail in the Authority’s Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2013/14, although some projects involving the building of extra fire stations will take a number of years to fully implement.

4.0 Current position

4.1 Halton currently has two Whole time stations, one in **Runcorn** and one in **Widnes**. Both have two fire appliances each with fire crews working Wholetime.

- **Runcorn** has seen a 5.6% reduction in the number of attendances at incidents and has an average of 2.28 calls per day, with 70.5% dealt with by one fire engine.
- **Widnes** has seen a 24.7% reduction in the number of attendances at incidents, with an average of 1.78 calls per day, while 68.3% of attendances are dealt with by one fire engine.

5.0 Proposals outlined for Halton in the draft Fire Service Integrated Risk Management Plan 13-14 which went out for consultation last year with the expected savings each option would generate

Runcorn

1. Remove the second fire engine entirely **£800,000** or
2. Replace it with a 'midi' fire engine used during busy periods such as bonfire night **£750,000** or
3. Change how the second fire engine is crewed from Wholetime to On-call (24/7) **£650,000** or
4. Change its crewing to a 12 hour day shift only **£350,000** or
5. Change its crewing to a Nucleus Crewing model (12 hour day shift and On-call at night) **£200,000**

Widnes

1. Stop crewing the second fire engine with support provided by the new station at Penketh **£800,000**. (Proposals are set out to build a new Wholetime community fire station in Penketh, Warrington with two fire engines, the first transferred from Warrington and the second operated by on-call staff.)

5.1 Outcomes for Halton in the now approved Integrated Risk Management Plan 13/14

Widnes - remove the second fire engine and provide additional cover from the new Wholetime station at Penketh

Runcorn - change how the second fire engine is crewed from Wholetime to On-call (24/7).

5.2 The outcomes of the consultation for the each of the other Cheshire areas are set out in the summary document attached as **Appendix 1**.

6.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy implications will be around the council priorities as set out below

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 There are possible implications for the Safer Halton priority. There are concerns that changes to the fire services in Halton may negatively impact on response times and the service received by Halton's residents .

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 The risk would be that response times would be adversely affected by the changes to the staffing of the second fire engine at Runcorn and removal of the second fire engine at Widnes with additional cover provided from Penketh.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 Cheshire Fire Service will complete an Equality Impact Assessment

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1072

10.1 Cheshire Fire Authority Making Cheshire Safer Integrated Risk Management Plan 2013–14

<http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/Assets/1/IRMP%2010%20final%20web.pdf>