

COMMUNITY INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (CIRMP) 2020/21 – PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



For Information

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Elected Members on the progress on the implementation of the Community Integrated Risk Management Plan (CIRMP) 2018-22, and specifically the priorities detailed within the Fire Authority's Service Plan 2020/21.
- 1.2 To advise Elected Members of any implications or matters arising from the implementation of the CIRMP.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - note the re-scheduling of the Service Plan 2020/21 priorities as a result of COVID 19 major event;
 - note the progress on the re-scheduled corporate priorities as set out in its CIRMP 2018-22 and on the Directorate priorities as agreed by the Chief Fire Officer for progression within its Brigade (Appendix 1); and
 - consider and provide strategic guidance on any matters impinging on the implementation of the CIRMP.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Cleveland Fire Authority has been using the process of integrated risk management planning for the last twelve years and this has led to the current configuration of the Brigade's resources.
- 3.2 The requirement for an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) was introduced in 2003 and included in the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. This was given statutory effect by the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. This requirement was re-stated in the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England published in May 2018.

- 3.3 The Framework states that each Fire and Rescue Authority must: *‘assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect their communities, whether they are local, cross border, multi-authority and/or national in nature from fires to terrorist attacks. Regard must be had to Community Risk Registers produced by Local Resilience Forums and any other local risk analyses as appropriate.*

Fire and rescue authorities must put in place arrangements to prevent and mitigate these risks, either through adjusting existing provision, effective collaboration and partnership working, or building new capability. Fire and rescue authorities should work through the Strategic Resilience Board where appropriate when determining what arrangements to put in place.’

- 3.4 Integrated risk management planning is simply about using resources in the most effective way to save lives, improve public safety and reduce emergency incidents. It is an approach that:

- identifies who or what is most at risk of fire and other emergencies
- determines where they are and how best to reach them
- identifies the best way to reduce and manage the risk
- ensures that resources are deployed in proportion to the size of the risk

- 3.5 On 23rd March 2018 the Authority finalised and approved its Community Integrated Risk Management Plan (CIRMP) 2018-22 which sets out the Authority's:

- operating environment
- vision, strategic goals, aims and associated outcomes;
- risk assessment outcomes
- medium term financial position
- services, plans and proposals to 2022 to manage its risks

4. UPDATE ON PRIORITIES

- 4.1 As Members are aware, on 31st December 2019 Chinese authorities notified the World Health Organisation (WHO) of an outbreak of pneumonia in Wuhan City, which was later classified as a new disease: COVID-19. By 30th January 2020, WHO declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” (PHEIC). And on March 11, 2020 WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, pointing to the over 118,000 cases of the coronavirus illness in over 110 countries and territories around the world and the sustained risk of further global spread.
- 4.2 As a country, the UK believes that it is well prepared for disease outbreaks, having responded to a wide range of infectious disease outbreaks in the recent past, and having undertaken significant preparedness work for an influenza pandemic for well over a decade. These plans ensure the UK is equipped to deliver a coordinated multi agency response to minimise wider societal impact that could arise from a significant outbreak. Planning draws on the idea of a “reasonable worst case (RWC)” scenario. This is not a forecast of what is most likely to happen, but will ensure that the UK is ready to respond to a range of scenarios. As to be expected those plans have been regularly tested and updated locally and nationally to ensure they are fit for purpose.

- 4.3 As a Brigade, we too have planned for those 'reasonable worst case scenarios' both in local and multi-agency settings, and have produced and tested our own Business Continuity Plans which set out our emergency preparedness arrangements to be able to deal with such an event.
- 4.4 Since March 2020 the Brigade's ELT's focus has been on the planning, responding, recovery and back to response phases of this COVID 19 event thereby continuing to ensure the safety of Cleveland Fire Brigade's communities and staff. Principal and Senior Officers have given priority to this national crisis to ensure the continued provision of the Brigade's community safety and enabling services. In addition we have had to accommodate an unexpected HMICFRS Inspection of our COVID arrangements.
- 4.5 Work relating to COVID has been significant and unexpected and this has to be recognised as being the dominant call on resources within the Authority's Corporate Priority work; other priority work has had to be re-scheduled on a risk basis and this has been reflected in this (202/21) and the next (2021/22) Corporate Internal Operating Plans. As COVID continues we will have to remain flexible and continue to re-prioritise work accordingly.
- 4.6 Attached at Appendix 1 is a summary progress report on the implementation of the priorities set out in the Service Plan 2020/21, that have been re-scheduled taking account of the significant COVID 19 national and local priority.

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