

TO: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

FROM: Director of Operational Support

DATE: 15 February 2007

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2007/2008

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority for the Service Improvement Plan 2007/2008.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority is recommended to approve the Service Improvement Plan 2007/2008 for public consultation.

3. Risk Assessment

- 3.1 Economic: The options outlined in the Service Improvement Plan 2007/2008 are aimed at providing the most cost effective service to the community whilst at the same time providing the optimum reduction of risk within it.
- 3.2 Social: The options outlined in the Service Improvement Plan 2007/2008 serve to improve the quality of service to the community and thereby mitigate the effects of fire and other incidents on the welfare of that community.
- 3.3 Legal: Chapter 1.1 of The Fire and Rescue National Framework 2006/2008 reiterates the legal requirement on all Fire Authorities to produce a local Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) that sets out the Authority's strategy for:
- reducing the number and severity of fires, road traffic accidents and other emergency incidents occurring in the area for which it is responsible;
 - reducing the severity of injuries in fires, road traffic accidents and other emergency incidents;
 - reducing the commercial, economic and social impact of fires and other emergency incidents;
 - safeguarding the environment and heritage (both built and natural); and
 - providing value for money.
- 3.4 The framework also acknowledges the need for the IRMP to be a strategic document supported by annual action plans for service improvement.

- 3.5 Environmental: The options outlined in the Service Improvement Plan 2007/2008 will assist the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority in its duty of safeguarding the environment and heritage (both built and natural).

4. Decision Making Process

- 4.1 Comments on the Plan from the Community Safety and Policy and Finance Committees have been incorporated in the Service Improvement Plan. The Plan will now be released for public consultation. Feedback on consultation will be presented to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority at its meeting on 24 May 2007.

5. Background

- 5.1 The Service Improvement Plan 2007/2008 (attached as Appendix A) represents the Fire Authority's fourth year of integrated risk planning and is intended to be the principal management tool to steer future modernisation of the fire service to better meet the needs of local communities. A central tenet of the IRMP process is the involvement of all stakeholders via meaningful consultation and the Head of Communications continues to plan the improvement of our performance in this key area.

- 5.2 In this our fourth evolution of the IRMP process we are seeking to instigate a change in the format of the document. This change in format has been directed, in part, by the increased availability of statistical data and a change within the National Framework. In 2006/07 the Authority produced a more strategic IRMP that began a research process aimed at setting the long term direction of the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS). This Service Improvement Plan supports the IRMP and clearly establishes how the Authority will seek to achieve its goals. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority will have seen many of the Plan's objectives as constituent parts of the Emergency Response and Asset Management strategies. Others have been brought forward by the Integrated Risk Management Development Group, the forum established specifically to allow input to the IRMP from staff around the Service.

- 5.3 The IRMP may now be viewed as an 'enabling' document rather than simply a list of specific projects. It is intended to strengthen the links between the Corporate Plan and the IRMP and to further embed IRMP proposals within the budgetary planning process. To that end the timeframe of the IRMP will be extended to cover a medium term planning cycle of three years, whilst still retaining the proscribed annual phases of development, consultation and implementation through the production of annual service improvement plans.

6. The Service Improvement Plan Objectives

- 6.1 In line with the requirements of the IRMP, the Service Improvement Plan suggests a number of objectives to be achieved over the next twelve months that improve the safety of all residents of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. These objectives are outlined below:

- prioritise our statutory fire safety inspection work in order to support our enforcement role under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005;
- ensure that our fire safety awareness programme is directed at those persons that are most at risk;
- introduce combined aerial and pumping appliances at Stanground and Cambridge Fire Stations;
- improve the type of equipment that we provide to rescue people from road traffic collisions;
- review the use of fire crews at an incident after the initial emergency phase has passed;
- review the timing of training sessions for retained fire fighters;
- review the current provision of the Service's rescue capability;
- ensure that rest arrangements for fire fighters undertaking night shifts do not have a detrimental effect on operational response times;
- review the use of the shift system utilised at St Neots, Ely and Wisbech Fire Stations to ensure that optimum use is made of fire fighters time;
- review the options for providing a more cost effective operational response from the Burwell and Swaffham Bulbeck Fire Stations;
- provide an improved response from the Peterborough Volunteer Fire Brigade site;
- review options for a more effective operational response for Gamlingay;
- review attendance at automatic fire alarm calls;
- build a new community safety station at Cambourne, and resource according to risk; and
- plan for a new community safety station at Northstowe subject to a satisfactory Section 106 agreement.

7. Summary

7.1 The Service Improvement Plan has a number of objectives on which stakeholder groups may wish to express an opinion. It suggests a number of reviews which, when complete, may require further consultation prior to the implementation of any changes. It is the intention of the Authority to be transparent in its decision making process and as such believes it is prudent to allow stakeholders the opportunity to comment at a time which may inform the conduct of any review, rather than reacting to its outcome.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

| Source Document | Location | Contact Officer |
|---|--|---|
| The National Fire and Rescue Framework 2006/2008 | Hinchingsbrooke Cottage Brampton Road Huntingdon | Paul Fredericks 01480 444557 paul.fredericks@cambsfire.gov.uk |