

Proposals relating to the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service

Context

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the National Framework 2012 require Norfolk County Council (NCC), as the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Authority, to prepare and publish an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). The IRMP is a strategic plan that sets out the Fire and Rescue Service's objectives for at least a three year period and it is part of the Norfolk County Council Policy Framework.

National guidance states that through the IRMP Fire and Rescue Authorities must:

- Review all foreseeable risks that threaten its area;
- Identify what roles it wants its fire and rescue service to take in managing those risks;
- Fund it to undertake those roles as economically and effectively as it can;
- Monitor, manage and report clearly and openly on how it is performing against the plan;
- Consult with the public and other stakeholders on its proposals.

Draft IRMP

A draft IRMP was presented to the Committee at the October meeting along with a document setting up more detailed information about the specific proposals for change. To ensure that Members understand the risks associated with the specific proposals relating to the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, copies of both documents are included with this Appendix (at Part 2 and 3). Information on the outcomes of the public consultation and equality impact assessments is also available for Members to consider, as detailed in the main report.

Because the IRMP forms part of the County Council's Policy Framework, the final version needs to be approved by Full Council. This Committee are being asked to recommend a revised IRMP to Full Council for approval.

Members previously considered a Strategic Vision for the Fire and Rescue Service and this is set out in Section 3 of the draft IRMP. The public consultation on the budget proposals included a question relating to this Strategic Vision. Overall, the majority of people supported the vision, but there was some feedback that it was 'long', 'waffle' and difficult to understand.

Therefore, a revised version of the vision has been prepared to replace the one in the draft IRMP – a copy of this draft is attached (see part 4). The revised vision is largely the same and retains the key elements, but the text has been shortened and more focussed.

The intention is that the draft IRMP will be revised to reflect the outcomes of Members consideration of budget proposals, and that the Committee recommend the IRMP to full

Council for approval on that basis. I.e. the IRMP will be revised to include information relating only to those proposals which the Committee resolve to progress and to reflect the revised Strategic Vision.

Proposals

There are a number of proposals relating to the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service for Members to consider. Whilst the specific proposals have not changed since they were considered by Members in October, they have been grouped together in a number of different ways for presentational reasons for the draft IRMP, the public consultation and in Member papers.

To ensure that Members are able to understand the proposals to be considered, a table is attached (see part 5) setting out the individual elements of the proposals and the potential savings.