



Corporate Plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan & Budget Consultation 2008/09



Dear Response Member,

ID for office use only

Every Fire & Rescue Service is required to produce a Corporate Plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which sets out its plans and priorities for the forthcoming year.

Cheshire Fire Authority has now published its draft plan (IRMP 5) for 2008/09 which contains a number of proposals which are currently being sent out to a wide range of interested groups and organisations.

The Plan is our key strategic document which sets out how our vision can be achieved, the resources needed and the targets and milestones used to measure progress.

As the public body responsible for providing a fire and rescue service to the communities of Cheshire, Halton and Warrington, the Fire Authority must maximise the use of its resources. Effective risk management is, therefore, critical in deciding how we prioritise our response to best protect the safety of local residents and businesses.

As a valued member of our community, we are keen to find out your views on the proposals and we would therefore be very grateful if you would spare about ten minutes to complete this questionnaire.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a paper version of the questionnaire or you can complete it online via our website – www.cheshirefire.gov.uk if you prefer.

To help you in completing the survey we have attached a brief summary of the plan which provides some background information about the proposals.

As the consultation results will be presented to our Fire Authority on 12th February 2008, we would be extremely grateful if you can return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed **FREEPOST** envelope as soon as possible but by no later than **1st February 2008**. The plan will then be amended, published and distributed on 31st March 2008, with electronic copies also published on this date.

- 2 -

Please be assured that your responses and comments will remain confidential and no individuals will be identified. The results will only be used to make improvements to our Service for the benefit of all members of the community.

As with all our consultations, every member of Response who returns their questionnaire will be entered into a prize draw to win £100 in Marks & Spencer vouchers as a token of our appreciation. The prize draw will be made on 4th February 2008 and the winner will be notified in writing.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing your views to our proposals.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S McGuirk', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Steve McGuirk
Chief Fire Officer



Consultation Timetable for IRMP 5

Please find below, the consultation timetable for IRMP 5:

14th December 2007

IRMP 5 consultation programme to commence with external and internal consultees.

10th February 2008

IRMP 5 consultation programme to end with external and internal consultees.

12th February 2008

Consultation results to be presented to the Fire Authority and amendments agreed.

31st March 2008

Final version of IRMP 5 to be published in print and on the Service's website.



Corporate Plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan & Budget Consultation 2008/09

Your views are very important to us therefore please can we ask you to take the time to complete this short questionnaire regarding our draft Corporate Plan & Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP 5) for 2008/09.

Before completing the questionnaire, please read the enclosed summary document which will give you more information and background to our proposals.

We are keen to establish how strongly you agree/disagree with our proposals and would be very grateful if you could place an **X** in the most relevant box.

KEY PROPOSALS 2008/09

Section 1 - Corporate Services

Aims and Objectives

Our Corporate Plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP 5) for 2007/08, clearly sets out our aims and objectives under the three main parts of our business – Emergency Response, Community Risk Reduction and Corporate Services.

We are proposing a small number of changes to some of these objectives to reflect recent changes in our role and responsibilities. The current and proposed changes are below:-

Q1) For Emergency Response, we propose to change two of our current objectives to the proposed objectives shown in the table below.

	Current Objectives	Proposed Objectives
ER1	Deploy emergency teams according to risk	Identify the risks facing local communities and ensure plans and resources are in place to respond
ER2	Deal effectively with emergency incidents	Provide a flexible, efficient and resilient response to emergency incidents

How strongly do you agree/disagree with these changes?

Strongly agree []
 Agree []
 Neither agree nor disagree []
 Disagree []
 Strongly disagree []

Q2) For Community Risk Reduction, we propose to change one of our current objectives as shown in the table below.

	Current Objectives	Proposed Objectives
CRR2	Protect life, property and other interests	Protect life, property and other interests through detailed risk analysis and assessment

How strongly do you agree/disagree with this change?

Strongly agree []
 Agree []
 Neither agree nor disagree []
 Disagree []
 Strongly disagree []

Q3) For Corporate Services, we propose to change one of our current objectives as shown in the table below.

	Current Objectives	Proposed Objectives
CS2	Ensure services meet the needs of all local communities through inclusive consultation and communication	Use inclusive consultation and communication to involve local communities in developing services which meet their needs

How strongly do you agree/disagree with this change?

Strongly agree []
 Agree []
 Neither agree nor disagree []
 Disagree []
 Strongly disagree []

Local Government Reorganisation in Cheshire

Q4) The Authority intends to devote resources to ensure the Service's role and responsibilities are fully considered as the new local government arrangements in Cheshire are set up.

How strongly do you agree/disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree []
 Agree []
 Neither agree nor disagree []
 Disagree []
 Strongly disagree []

Equality & Diversity

Q5) The Service is keen to ensure that its workforce is representative of the community in Cheshire, Halton and Warrington and intends to encourage under represented group to apply for operational posts within the Service through targeted recruitment events.

How strongly do you agree/disagree with this proposal?

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Strongly agree | [] |
| Agree | [] |
| Neither agree nor disagree | [] |
| Disagree | [] |
| Strongly disagree | [] |

Empowering our Communities

- Q6) In 2008/09, we will publish a new Community Empowerment Strategy and as part of the strategy, we are keen to give local people greater say regarding funding of community safety initiatives in their area.**

How strongly do you agree/disagree with this proposal?

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Strongly agree | [] |
| Agree | [] |
| Neither agree nor disagree | [] |
| Disagree | [] |
| Strongly disagree | [] |

The Environment & Corporate Social Responsibility

- Q7) To what extent do you agree that the Service should invest in reducing its environmental impact, even if it involves spending more money initially?**

How strongly do you agree/disagree with this proposal?

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Strongly agree | [] |
| Agree | [] |
| Neither agree nor disagree | [] |
| Disagree | [] |
| Strongly disagree | [] |

- Q8) Please rank the following priorities 1 to 4 in order of which you think is the most important for the Service to tackle.**

- | | |
|--|-----|
| Reducing our energy consumption | [] |
| Reducing our carbon dioxide emissions | [] |
| Increasing our recycling | [] |
| Reducing the impact of our work on the environment | [] |

High Potential Development Scheme

- Q9) The Service is considering introducing a High Potential Development Scheme (HPDS) which would involve positively targeting suitable individuals with the physical attributes required to be a firefighter, along with the academic qualities, ability and potential to move quickly through the service to middle management roles and beyond.**

How strongly do you agree/disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree	[]
Agree	[]
Neither agree nor disagree	[]
Disagree	[]
Strongly disagree	[]

Please feel free to make any additional comments about section 1.

Section 2 – Community Risk Reduction

Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)

Q10) Our firefighters are often the first emergency services staff to arrive at the scene and we are therefore looking at increasing the trauma skills of our staff.

How strongly do you agree/disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree	[]
Agree	[]
Neither agree nor disagree	[]
Disagree	[]
Strongly disagree	[]

Developing Advocates and Volunteers

Q11) We will develop the skills of our advocates in specialist areas and aim to increase our volunteers to 500 over the next two years and to 1,000 by 2013.

How strongly do you agree/disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree	[]
Agree	[]
Neither agree nor disagree	[]
Disagree	[]
Strongly disagree	[]

Fire Cadet Units

Q12) We intend to develop a more risk-based approach to the recruitment and development of cadet units which will include looking at options to run schemes at specific locations such as schools and on estates.

How strongly do you agree/disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree	[]
Agree	[]
Neither agree nor disagree	[]
Disagree	[]
Strongly disagree	[]

Access to Critical Information

Q13) To help us tackle business fires and improve firefighter safety, we will invest resources to improve how we record and access information about the design and structure of commercial buildings.

How strongly do you agree/disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree	[]
Agree	[]
Neither agree nor disagree	[]
Disagree	[]
Strongly disagree	[]

Please feel free to make any additional comments section 2.

Section 3 – Emergency Response

New Training Centre

Q14) We intend to develop training facilities at Frodsham fire station to test and develop the incident command and control skills of our staff.

How strongly do you agree/disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree	[]
Agree	[]
Neither agree nor disagree	[]
Disagree	[]
Strongly disagree	[]

Improved Vehicle Replacement Programme

Q15) We intend our future vehicle replacement programme to be based on local risk analysis so that we have a wide range of firefighting vehicles to meet local needs. This will include midi fire appliances (TRVs) and appliances which combine a standard appliance and a hydraulic platform.

How strongly do you agree/disagree with this proposal?

Strongly agree	[]
Agree	[]
Neither agree nor disagree	[]
Disagree	[]
Strongly disagree	[]

Please feel free to make any additional comments about section 3.

Section 4 – Budget Consultation

Budget Consultation

Q16) In 2007/08 Cheshire Fire Authority set the lowest Council Tax precept of any fire authority in the country. It is intending to limit any increase in next year's bill to 3%.

To what extent do you agree that the increase is reasonable?

Strongly agree	[]
Agree	[]
Neither agree nor disagree	[]
Disagree	[]
Strongly disagree	[]

Q17) New projects and developments in recent IRMPs have been funded entirely by efficiencies or savings elsewhere in the Service. Some future proposals to improve the safety of both our staff and local communities may require new funding.

To what extent do you agree with this proposal?

Strongly agree	[]
Agree	[]
Neither agree nor disagree	[]
Disagree	[]
Strongly disagree	[]

Q18) The Authority continues to invest as much resources into preventing fires and emergencies as it does in providing an emergency response.

To what extent do you agree with this approach?

Strongly agree	[]
Agree	[]
Neither agree nor disagree	[]
Disagree	[]
Strongly disagree	[]

Please feel free to make any additional comments about section 4.

Thank you for your time and good luck in the prize draw.

Please return this postal questionnaire in the enclosed **FREEPOST** envelope or alternatively, complete our online form which can be found on our website – www.cheshirefire.gov.uk