



**CABINET**

**14 FEBRUARY 2017**

**DIRECTOR OF PLACE COMMISSIONING: TONY CIABURRO**

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC PROTECTION AND  
DEPUTY LEADER: COUNCILLOR ANDRÉ GONZÁLEZ DE SAVAGE**

<b>Subject:</b>	Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Protection Plan 2017-2020.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	That Cabinet note the findings of the Consultation Summary Report and endorse the Draft Community Protection Plan 2017-2020 to The Fire Authority (Full Council) for approval.

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to review the recent consultation of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Authority draft Community Protection Plan 2017 - 2020 (IRMP) and recommend to the Fire Authority (Full Council) for approval.

**2. How this decision contributes to the Council Plan**

The Council’s vision is to make Northamptonshire a great place to live and work. This is achieved through increasing the wellbeing of your county’s communities and/or safeguarding the county’s communities.

This initiative specifically delivers increased wellbeing and/or safeguarding:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to creating safer communities</li> <li>• Contributing to creating healthy communities</li> <li>• Getting people involved</li> </ul>
And Through:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploitation of Technology</li> <li>• Intelligence Led Services</li> <li>• Ambitious Partnerships</li> </ul>

**3. Background**

3.1 Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) is a statutory requirement placed upon the fire authority by Central Government and is an evidenced based planning framework designed to inform and support local decision making in mitigating community risk.

3.2 The 2012 National Framework requires each fire and rescue authority to produce a publicly available Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). Within Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) we have called this our Community Protection Plan (CPP) to make it more meaningful to the public.

- 3.3 The framework states that each fire and rescue authority should ensure that the IRMP reflects effective consultation during its development and at all review stages with representatives of all sectors of the community and stakeholders.
- 3.4 On the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 Cabinet reviewed the draft Community Protection Plan 2017-2020 and supported the decision to undergo a six week consultation period, running from the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016.
- 3.5 Since the introduction of the IRMP, Fire Services nationally have transformed the way they have delivered their services to the public. The result of this transformation, moving the service from a purely response based organisation to a response and prevention organisation, has seen a 42% reduction in fires, while deaths from fires have continued to fall to record low numbers. This has made the Fire and Rescue Service the leading public sector organisation at managing demand in the country. Within the County, NFRS have mirrored these achievements.
- 3.6 As part of NCC Next Generation working, a review was undertaken of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) to ensure it is organised and operating as effectively and efficiently as possible and is able to deliver the savings as identified within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) of £2.315M between 2016/17 and 2019/20.
- 3.7 The review forms part of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Process (IRMP), supporting the ways in which the service can optimise delivery and achieve efficiencies without reducing the quality of front-line services to the public.
- 3.8 The review noted that NFRS compares well with other services both nationally and within our family group of like services, in that we have a low cost per head of population of £33.80 (Source: CIPFA estimated expenditure 2015/16) while also comparing favourably in a range of other efficiency measures. These include stations and appliances serving a larger than average population and larger than average area, with a lower than average personnel headcount and FTE count. NFRS also have a lower total expenditure, meaning that operational efficiency is high.
- 3.9 NFRS has brought together all of the elements of the Service Review and requirements to meet the Governments fire reform agenda within the proposed Community Protection Plan 2017-2020 (IRMP) – Appendix 2, that will run from 2017/18 to 2019/20 and will therefore coincide with the last three years of the four year Council plan and budget cycle; ensuring that actions and change plans are fully aligned with corporate financial planning.
- 3.10 This planning process is designed to ensure the fire authority continue to provide the services that the community need and value and to support the safety and wellbeing of the staff.
- 3.11 **Appendix 3** outlines the key strategic actions for the IRMP 2017-18, to not only meet the current financial challenges but set the foundations for the Service moving forward in line with the Community Protection Plan 2017-2020.

## **4. Consultation and Scrutiny**

- 4.1 Members of the Environment, Development and Transport Committee provided scrutiny of the IRMP prior to consultation at a meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 and during the consultation, at a meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- 4.2 The six week consultation process began on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and closed on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016. A full overview of the consultation strategy and responses are included within **Appendix 1**.
- 4.3 Councillors, local MP's and MEP's district and borough councils, parish and town councils, partner organisations, voluntary and community sector organisations, representatives from protected characteristic groups, and customer and user groups were formally invited to give their views and asked to promote the consultation to their members, or within their local area.
- 4.4 Direct correspondence was also sent to Community Connect (Neighbourhood Watch), 36 x faith groups, 34 libraries, 36 schools, 4 Universities/Colleges, 7 neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services, Northamptonshire Police, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Northampton Enterprise, Royal Voluntary Service, Chamber of Commerce and Northamptonshire Observatory
- 4.5 Opportunities to take part in the consultation were also promoted in the local media, through the NFRS web pages and NCC website as well as via social media channels for NFRS, Northamptonshire County Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.
- 4.6 The draft CPP has also been covered by the local media and picked up by BBC Look East news program.
- 4.7 We recognise the value of all employees' contributions to the IRMP and, as such, an essential element of the consultation has thus been engagement with all employees within the organisation. In contrast to previous consultations, where this has been exclusively led by the Senior Managers within the Service, this year, local Managers within the Service have held guided discussions with their teams about the IRMP and consultation, with meetings supported by members of the Fire Executive Group (FEG). This has supported a more open, transparent and inclusive approach to the process in line with the proposed new values within the plan.

## **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 That Cabinet note the findings of the Consultation Summary Report (Appendix 1)
- 5.2 That Cabinet endorse the Draft Community Protection Plan 2017-2020 to The Fire Authority (Full Council) for approval (Appendix 2).

## **6. Equality Screening**

- 6.1 A full equality impact assessment has been completed for the proposed Community Protection Plan 2017-2020 and do not consider it to have any impact on protected characteristic groups; consider it to be neutral.

## 6.2 Fire & Rescue:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/equalities/Pages/frseia.aspx>

## 7. Alternative Options Considered

7.1 The production of an IRMP is a statutory requirement on the fire authority. There are no other alternative options to consider.

## 8. Financial Implications

8.1 The total expenditure for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service in 2015/16 was approximately £20.3m (+overhead costs circa £3.5m). This is equivalent to £33.80 per head (Source: CIPFA estimated expenditure 2015/16) based on the current population estimates and demonstrates excellent value for money, whilst also comparing favourably in a range of other efficiency measures. These include stations and appliances serving a larger than average population and larger than average area, with a lower than average number of staff. NFRS also have a lower total expenditure, meaning that operational efficiency is high.

8.2 Currently, over the 4 years April 2016 – March 2020, further revenue savings totalling £2.315m are required. The Community Protection Plan includes a chart detailing the split of these savings across each of the 4 years, with £815k having been achieved in 2016/17; £1.5m remains to be achieved in the remaining 3 years. £700k savings allocated for 2017/18 remain subject to the council's budget setting process including the required scrutiny process.

8.3 Delivery of this plan is dependent upon funding remaining in alignment with the current County Council draft Medium Term Financial Plan and the Service maintaining access to any capital and revenue grant allocation. The actions and timescales within the plan are therefore based upon the current known operating budget and the detail within the current County Council Medium Term Financial Plan. The impact of any changes to funding will need to be considered as they become known during the life of this plan.

## 9. Risk and Business Continuity Management

a) Risk(s) associated with the proposal

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Additional Financial Pressures	The impact of any changes to funding will be considered based on the organisational vision and strategy outlined within the proposed plan.	Amber

b) Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Risk Rating
IRMP is a legal requirement under the National Framework 2012	Red
Financial Savings are not achieved	Amber
Failure to meet government expectations	Amber

Risk	Risk Rating
Negative Press/ Community Interest	Amber

## 10. List of Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Consultation Summary Report
- Appendix 2 – Community Protection Plan 2017-2020 (IRMP)
- Appendix 3 – IRMP 2017-18 Year 1 Actions.

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Background Papers:	Community Protection Plan 2013-2016 Northants Police/ Fire and Rescue Service Partnership Agreement. Service Review Terms of Reference.
Does the report propose a key decision is taken?	YES
If yes, is the decision in the Forward Plan?	YES
Will further decisions be required? If so, please outline the timetable here	Yes Fire Authority *Full Council) March 2017
Does the report include delegated decisions? If so, please outline the timetable here	N/A
Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget and/or policy framework?	NO
Have the financial implications been cleared by the Strategic Finance Manager (SFM)? Have any capital spend implications been cleared by the Capital Investment Board (CIB)	YES Name of SFM: Rosemary Pallot  YES/NO
Has the report been cleared by the relevant Director?	YES Name of Director: Tony Ciaburro
Has the relevant Cabinet Member been consulted?	YES Cabinet Member: Councillor Gonzalez De Savage
Has the relevant scrutiny committee been consulted?	NO Scrutiny Committee:
Has the report been cleared by Legal Services?	YES Name of solicitor: Richard McAdam
	Solicitor's comments:
Have any communications issues been cleared by Communications and Marketing?	YES Name of officer: Joni Ager
Have any property issues been cleared by Property and Asset Management?	N/A Name of officer:

Are there any community safety implications?	YES – The Integrated Risk Management process is the key strategic plan for the Fire Authority in mitigating risk to the communities of Northamptonshire from Fire and other emergencies under the Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004.
Are there any environmental implications:	Environmental implications are covered within the proposed Community Protection Plan 2017-2020.
Are there any Health & Safety Implications:	YES - Health and Safety remains one of the strategic objectives as embedded within the proposed draft Community Protection Plan 2017-2020
Are there any Human Resources Implications:	YES (please delete as appropriate) The proposed plan highlights the need for new staffing models in line with a proposed target operating model.
Are there any human rights implications:	NO
Constituency Interest:	County wide