Debbie Kennard  
Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities

As the Fire & Rescue Authority (FRA) and governing body for the county, West Sussex County Council has a legal duty to ensure that we provide a highly effective and efficient fire and rescue service that is also value for money.

This Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) sets out how we will ensure the continuous improvement of your fire and rescue service. We are consulting on what local people think about this plan.

The FRA has set strategic priorities for the Chief Fire Officer based on the risk analysis detailed in the draft IRMP. They are:

- To reduce the number of emergency incidents and their consequences through the continuous improvement of prevention, protection and response activities.
- As part of West Sussex County Council, work with local communities, districts and boroughs to keep West Sussex safe.
- Collaborate with emergency services and other local and national partners to improve the service to the public.
- Develop and maintain a workforce that is professional, resilient, skilled, flexible and diverse.
- Provide customer-centred value for money services.

We are asking you if you agree with these priorities in a public consultation which runs from 16 April to 28 May 2018.

I would encourage you to have your say and help us shape our fire service for the future.
What is an Integrated Risk Management Plan?

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority has a statutory duty to consult on, and publish, a three to five year Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

This is an analysis of the current and projected risk profile in the county and how West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, part of West Sussex County Council, is organised to support our local communities.

The service attended 8,842 incidents in 2016/17. The average time for a fire appliance to arrive at an incident in West Sussex is under nine minutes.

As an integral part of West Sussex County Council, the fire and rescue service works with other key services to keep our county safe.

The largest portion of the fire and rescue service’s budget is spent on frontline services including firefighting, rescue operations and community safety activity.

The IRMP outlines the service’s work on:

- **Prevention** – educating the community on how to reduce risks through safe and well visits, school visits and other training.
- **Protection** – providing safer public spaces within the built environment, fire safety inspections and enforcement.
- **Response** – sending fire appliances and firefighters to emergency incidents. This can include fires, road traffic collisions, flooding etc.
- **People** – how we address the challenges we face in delivering a highly trained, diverse and inclusive workforce.
- **Value for money** – ensuring everything we do is as cost efficient as possible.
- **Partnership and collaboration** – how we will work with other organisations to achieve our organisational aims.
The IRMP provides a detailed understanding of our communities and the risks they face.

It takes into account wider issues outside of West Sussex including national risks, to develop national resilience capabilities that are available to support our service when dealing with major incidents that stretch normal resource such as major flooding.

The plan also highlights a number of challenges we are facing and how we plan to address them. We want to review our emergency response standards and our on call recruitment and retention plan.

We will review our crewing systems and explore whether we can use our staff more effectively. Our aim is to ensure more fire engines are available at the times we experience peak demand, whilst maintaining sufficient cover at all times of the day and night.

We will measure our progress in four implementation boards against project and programme milestones as well as using our key performance indicators to measure success. This will be overseen by the Senior Leadership Board.

The boards are

- Service Delivery Board
- People and Culture Board
- Integration and Collaboration Board
- Customer-Centred Value for Money Board

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How we identify risks in our county

The IRMP summarises our research to find out what the risks are to local people, businesses, the environment and heritage sites.

We also consider how we manage the risks our firefighters face when they respond to an emergency and any risk we identify that may affect the public.

These risks drive our key priorities and inform the work we plan to do to make West Sussex a safer place.

Predictably hotspots are in centres of population including our large towns, along the coastal strip and in the north of the county. However emergencies can occur at any time across any part of the county.

Some of the situations where we provide an emergency response include:

- dwelling fires
- other building fires
- other fires including cars and wildfires
- road traffic collisions
- hazardous material incidents including environmental or pollution risk
- extreme weather events.

West Sussex is classified as being ‘significantly rural’, with 42% of the county’s population, and more than half its businesses, located in rural areas.

This can provide challenges for equal provision of services and also affects our attendance times.

We analyse risk by using five years of incident data and local information to predict where emergencies are likely to happen or be more serious. Each year we produce a critical fire map which shows these risk areas.

We believe that by focusing on the analysis and use of data along with the professional knowledge of our teams we can better target our resources at those people most at risk and make the community we serve even safer.
West Sussex Critical Fire Risk Map 2017-18

**Very High Risk**
The risk profile warrants a very high level of fire cover & very substantial CFS risk reduction initiatives.

**High Risk**
The risk profile warrants a high level of fire cover & substantial CFS risk reduction initiatives.

**Medium Risk**
The risk profile warrants a medium level of fire cover, CFS initiatives should be targeted at specific issues.

**Low Risk**
The risk profile warrants a minimum level of fire cover, CFS initiatives should be targeted at specific issues.
How we will meet our priorities

Priority one
Reduce the number of emergency incidents and their consequences through the continuous improvement of prevention, protection and response activities.

We will review the way we crew our fire engines. This may mean crewing with fewer people than we currently do. Once our research into this has been completed there will be further consultation.

We will implement new technologies and procedures. As we are a predominantly rural county, and the amount of traffic on our roads is increasing, we will review our fleet of fire engines to see if smaller fire appliances may be appropriate for some locations.

We will review the average time it takes for us to respond to an incident.

Priority two
As part of West Sussex County Council, work with local communities, districts and boroughs to keep West Sussex safe.

We will engage with the districts, boroughs and other partners by introducing local plans to meet the community’s needs.

For example, we plan to introduce partnership working with Trading Standards and other organisations in the joint delivery of inspections. Within West Sussex County Council we will continue to develop our work with the Highways team to make our roads safer and will work with Education and Health teams to deliver projects.
Priority three
Collaborate with emergency services and other local and national partners to improve the service to the public.

We will work with other fire services wherever appropriate, building on the formal partnership with East Sussex and Surrey.

We will work with other emergency services such as Sussex and Surrey Police. For example on the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for helping to deal with emergency incidents.

We will develop ways to share risk information across organisations to keep our county safe.

We will continue to identify ways we can share buildings to become more cost efficient.

Priority four
Develop and maintain a workforce that is professional, resilient, skilled, flexible and diverse.

We will develop a People and Culture Strategy to make sure we continue to create a trained, inclusive and diverse workforce. Examples of this work include our support of the HeForShe campaign, looking to address our firefighter age profile and developing how people can progress their career through our organisation.

We will also look to improve staff training in immediate emergency care response and look to develop a co-responder medical response to support our teams and the community.
How we will meet our priorities

Priority five

Provide customer-centred value for money services.

As an integral part of West Sussex County Council we will make sure we are delivering the best service possible for local people. We will look to be more efficient by sharing research, development and purchase of new equipment with our partners. For example, we will replace the equipment we use to rescue people from road collisions because vehicles are being built from stronger materials. We are also looking to increase the number of volunteers we can call on to help us with non-emergency work.

More information can be found in the full IRMP.

Consultation

A consultation will run for six weeks from 16 April to 28 May 2018.

To read the draft IRMP and to take part in the consultation please go to www.westsussex.gov.uk/IRMP2018

For paper versions please contact us:

Email: yourfireservice@westsussex.gov.uk

Telephone: 01243 777100

In writing: IRMP public consultation, Communications Team, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RG

If you require this consultation in an alternative format, please email yourfireservice@westsussex.gov.uk.