

Corporate Risk Management Summary

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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1 Purpose of Report

This is the latest of the regular risk summary reports to the Strategy and Resources Committee. As previously, these reports are intended to enable Members to meet the requirement of this Committee's Terms of Reference, as they relate to the Fire Authority's management of corporate risk.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

3 Background

Members will be aware that this Committee's Terms of Reference include that it will:

'ensure that the financial management of the Fire Authority is adequate and effective and includes a sound system of internal control and arrangements for the management of risk'.

In order for the Committee to meet these responsibilities it is necessary for it to receive regular risk summary reports. This report provides Members with information relating to the progress made with the Fire Authority's corporate risk management processes.

4 Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A Reporting Exemptions

The public of Shropshire have a right to know that their Fire and Rescue Authority is taking appropriate measures to deal with risks that could potentially impact on its ability to deliver an effective emergency service.

However, the public disclosure of certain risks, to which the Authority is exposed, could in itself present a risk to the Authority.

For this reason, although an 'open session' version of this report will always be made available, where an assessment against the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A indicates it would be appropriate, any exempted information would be excluded. Exempt information would then be incorporated in a separate 'closed session' report. Please note that as there has been no change to the "exempt risk" since the last annual Fire Authority report on 18 July 2012, it has not been reproduced as a separate exempt paper. For further information please refer to previous papers

'Open reports' will include all information about sensitive risks that is not likely to compromise the Authority (e.g. risk identification number, risk assessment results, risk owner etc), with only the sensitive information being exempt, e.g. the risk description and any control measures included.

This approach helps to ensure that the public has as much information as possible about the risk environment the Authority is operating in, whilst at the same time limiting any damage that could be caused through its inappropriate use.

5 Risk Management Progress

On 1 November 2012, members of the Service Management Team (SMT), the Risk Management Group (RMG) and the Fire Authority Risk and Audit Champion attended a corporate risk training session provided by Zurich Municipal. Internal Audit had identified that the RMG would benefit from such training and to ensure value for money this was extended to members of SMT.

The outcome of the training was that the corporate risk management process throughout Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) was in need of review. This review, which will be co-ordinated through RMG, will include a refresh of the RMG Terms of Reference and the Risk Management Protocol.

There are numerous functions within the Service that have a risk element, for example, Integrated Risk Management Planning, Programmes and Projects, Partnerships and Annual Governance arrangements. The review will ensure that all these identified functions will be co-ordinated and monitored through RMG and link into the strategic planning process.

The current corporate risk register is attached as an appendix to this report.

6 New Risks

Since the last annual summary report three new risks have been identified, relating to information technology, data quality and health and safety. These have not been added to the risk register but will be evaluated alongside existing risks during the above review.

7 Closed Risks

No risks have been closed since the last report.

8 Overall Summary

There are currently 14 risks on the risk register. If these risks actually materialised, they would be likely to impact on reputation slightly more than on finance or objectives. However, the control measures currently in place are slightly more effective at managing down the risk to reputation and objectives, than they are for the financial impacts.

9 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

10 Legal Comment

There is no legislative duty for the Fire Authority to assess the risks to which its business objectives are faced. Corporate risk management does, however, form a fundamental element of good corporate management practices.

The Fire Authority has the power to act as proposed in this report. Care will need to be taken to ensure that the provisions of Schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972 are correctly applied.

11 Equality Impact Assessment

Officers have considered the Service's Brigade Order on Equality Impact Assessments (Personnel 5 Part 2) and have determined that the information contained within this report is purely historical summary data. As such, it contains no proposals for changes to current policies and procedures, which could involve discriminatory practices or differential impacts upon specific groups. An Initial Equality Impact Assessment has, therefore, not been completed.

12 Appendix

Corporate Risk Register

13 Background Papers

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
18 July 2012, Paper 19, Corporate Risk Management Summary

Corporate Risk Register

Threat or Opportunity	Risk ID	Date raised	Description	Risk Owner	Control Owner	Links to other risks
Threat	17	9/11/05	If the Retained Firefighters "Working Time" court case goes against Fire Authority's, then there is potential for the Authority to have to pay significant sums of money out in court costs, and backdated pension contributions (Emp Circular 20/2005).	Paul Raymond	Joanne Coadey	
Threat	79	17/12/10	If mobile data terminals are not receiving updates, or are unable to display current information there is a risk to firefighter safety. Provision of up to date information is a corporate responsibility.	Steve Worrall	Sally Edwards	
Threat	81	23/11/11	If the Service fails to have appropriate policies and procedures in place to deal with unusual incidents (for example rescues from collapsed mines) there is a risk that the Service will be subject to legal and community criticism	Steve Worrall	Martin Timmis	68
Threat	82	21/12/11	If appropriate controls are not in place to manage the corporate and strategic risks associated with purchasing and procurement, the service may suffer significant financial losses as a result of contractual failures.	Paul Raymond	Andrew Kelcey	20, 64, 65
Threat	75	17/3/09	If the "opt-out" option the UK currently holds from the European Working Time Directive is removed, then this could have an impact on the availability of RDS staff.	Louise McKenzie	Lisa Vickers	
Threat	35	18/1/06	Information exempt from publication by virtue of the Local Governments Act 1972, Schedule 12A, paragraph 4.	Paul Raymond	John Redmond	12
Threat	11	23/11/05	If the county suffers a harsh winter, then there is a chance that the Service will not be able to deliver an appropriate level of service to the people of Shropshire.	Steve Worrall	Martin Timmis	20
Threat	20	12/10/05	If the organisation is not able to use its buildings, its people and/or its other resources due to a disaster scenario, then it is unlikely to be able to deliver essential services to the communities of Shropshire (not including strike action).	Paul Raymond	Martin Timmis	35, 11

Threat or Opportunity	Risk ID	Date raised	Description	Risk Owner	Control Owner	Links to other risks
Threat	64	20/6/07	If the implications of the Government's proposals for the Long Term Capability Management of all 'New Dimensions' assets (as described in FSC 26/2007) are not fully considered, then there is a risk that the Authority's budgets may be detrimentally impacted into the future.	Paul Raymond	John Redmond	33
Threat	68	26/9/07	If the Brigade does not have policies and procedures, relating to water rescue incidents, that effectively balance the risks to staff versus the risk to the public, then the Fire Authority could be subject to prosecution under health and safety law or a significant loss in reputation.	Steve Worrall	Martin Timmis	
Threat	65	4/7/07	If the implications of the various ICT projects, currently ongoing in the Brigade, are not coordinated, then there is a risk that the individual projects will not be implemented effectively.	Steve Worrall	Ged Edwards	
Opportunity	33	18/1/05	If the Authority is not clear as to the rules that apply to Governments specific Funding, then it could miss the opportunity to seek additional funding for the activities it is required to undertake in order to meet the Government's Modernisation Agenda and local priorities.	Paul Raymond	Joanne Coadey	64
Threat	80	1/11/10	If the Service fails to implement the HMG Security Policy Framework measures and either confidential/ secret data were to be mislaid, or the Service was subject to Cyber attack, then the Service would be liable to prosecution and/or loss of reputation and potential service delivery impacts.	Steve Worrall	Kevin Faulkner	
Threat	12	1/11/05	If neighbouring brigades suffer industrial action, then the support from those brigades during large incidents in our county is likely to be reduced thereby impacting on our ability to deal with incidents effectively.	John Redmond	Martin Timmis	35