

Corporate Risk Management Summary

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact Paul Raymond, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201 or Martin Timmis, Head of Operations and Risk, on 01743 260285.

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 requirements of this Committee's Terms of Reference as they relate to the Fire Authority's management of corporate risk. The progress reported relates to that achieved since the last Summary Report, received by this Committee at its meeting on 20 May 2010.

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 during the period from May until August 2010.

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, there are certain risks to which the Authority is exposed, the public disclosure of which could 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. 'Open Reports' will include all information about sensitive risks that is not likely to compromise the Authority (e.g. Risk ID, risk assessment results, Risk Owner etc), with only the sensitive information being exempt (e.g. Risk Description and any control measures included etc).

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 Setting the Authority's Risk Acceptance and Risk Tolerance Levels

The assessment of risk is based on the analysis of the potential for the risk to do harm (the detrimental impact on the Authority) and the likelihood that it will occur. The potential impact on the Authority is measured against three criteria:

- a. Financial impact;
- b. Reputation impact; and
- c. Impact on the ability for the Authority to deliver its corporate aims and objectives.

Using widely accepted principles of risk assessment each risk is "scored" allowing the Authority to target appropriate resources at those risks likely to have greatest impact. Further information is available in the previous Corporate Risk management Summary paper, dated 20 may 2010.

The remainder of this report provides summary data on the current contents of the Authority's Corporate Risk Register.

6 Risk Management Progress

This section includes information about all events that have led to the current status with the Authority's Corporate Risk Management system.

May 2010

This Committee received the last summary report.

The Risk Manager met with the Shrewsbury Programme Manager to discuss and assess all of the programme's risks.

June 2010

The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and Improvement Plan were approved by the Fire Authority.

The Chief Officer's Group met to discuss the various risks for which they are responsible.

The Service's Health and Safety Committee met.

July 2010

The annual Corporate Risk Management Summary was presented to the Fire Authority.

The Service's Risk Management Group met and discussed all matters relating to the Service's risk environment and outcomes from audits undertaken by Internal Audit. The meeting was attended by Internal Audit.

The Chief Officer's Group met to discuss the various risks for which they are responsible.

August 2010

The Service's Risk Management Group met to discuss actions take to meet the requirements of outstanding recommendations arising from internal audits. Significant progress against outstanding recommendations was noted.

The services Risk Management Policy Statement and Risk Management group Terms of Reference were reviewed.

The Head of Operations and Risk met with the Shrewsbury Programme Manager to discuss programme risks and has identified a new corporate risk (see below).

7 New Risks

One new threat has been added to the Corporate Risk Register since the last summary report. Details about this threat are given in the table below

Opportunity or Threat	ID	Risk Description	Raised by	Risk Owner	Risk level without control	Action Required	Control Owner	Risk level with all controls
Threat	78	If the aging IT network is unable to sustain the introduction of new and replacement systems and software, the service may lose its ability to communicate effectively, including loss of the command & control system	Programme Manager	Steve Worrall	9	A full diagnostic audit of the network is required to determine future capability to deliver on ICT requirements, including the new Command & Control System. As a result, implement any urgent recommendations. Consider replacement of the network.	IT Manager	1

8 Closed Risks

No risks have been closed since the last report.

9 Current entries in the Corporate Risk Register

This section provides an overall summary of all entries in the Fire Authority's electronic Corporate Risk Register. Table 2 below includes previous, as well as current, figures for comparative purposes.

Descriptor	Number	Comment
Total number of entries	49	Previous figure 48 This will increase over time. The rate at which it increases will demonstrate how active the Risk Management process is.
Total number of threats	45	Previous figure 44 Comment as above
Total number of opportunities	4	Previous figure 4 Comment as above
Total number of closed entries	28	Previous figure 28 Comment as above
Number of 'live' threats	19	Previous figure 18 Whilst we do not want to discourage risk reporting, we would want this to remain within a manageable number. Identifying the optimum number of manageable risks to have in the risk register will come through experience to be gained over the coming months and years.
Average risk level of all currently 'live' threats.	5.37	Previous figure 5.17 This is on a scale where 1 is minimal risk, through to 9, which is maximum risk. Although there will inevitably be times when this figure increases (especially in the early stages of managing high risks), we would be looking for this figure to show a general downward trend. This would demonstrate that the Fire Authority is successfully managing its risks.
Number of 'live' opportunities	2	Previous figure 2 We would be looking for this figure to increase, but again not to the extent that it becomes unmanageable. Inclusion of opportunities in the risk register is an area that is under development within both this and other fire authorities' risk registers. The importance and usefulness of this side of risk management is expected to increase as the Fire Authority's risk management process matures.
Average level of opportunity	6.5	Previous figure 6.5 Scale of 1 to 9 We would tend to want this figure to grow.

10 Overall Summary

There are now 11 risks assessed as being above “tolerance level”. If the risks currently in the Risk Register actually materialised, they are likely to impact on reputation slightly more than on Finance and 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.

The most significant risks currently facing the Fire Authority are Risks 17, 66, 72, 74 and the new risk 78. Details about these particular risks, including how they are being dealt with, are summarised in the remainder of this section.

Figure 1 – Risk 17

Risk ID:	17
Risk Description:	If the Part-time Workers Regulations Employment Tribunal 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.
Risk Owner:	Paul Raymond (Chief Fire Officer)
Control Owner:	Keith Dixon (Treasurer)
Risk Score based upon:	
a. NO Controls in place:	9
b. ALL Controls in place:	9
c. CURRENT Controls in place:	9
Actions taken to date:	
	Employer Circular 03/08 reported that the Retained Firefighters had been discriminated against under the P/T Workers Regulations. This was reported to CFA on 30th April 2008. Liability appears to be limited to the introduction of the P/T Workers legislation, which was in 2000.
	Government has assured Fire Authorities that Pension Account Administrators will be involved in the negotiation that needs to take place to progress this issue. CLG-officers say matters are being handled by the Local Government Employers. However due to the sensitivities involved in the negotiating process, the Service has not been able to get any further information on how this is progressing at this time.
	The financing of this risk has been reviewed as part of the 2009/10 budget process, and the sums earmarked to cover this risk have been put into a general reserve dealing with 'Pensions and other staff issues'.
	NJC Circular 2/10 has exposed costs of £150,000 to £200,000 to settle compensation for unequal terms and conditions. Correspondence with CLG indicates employer pension costs of about £800,000, although it is not clear whether this will be met from employers' contributions or a lump sum. There is no further evidence to date but plans are being considered to look at increasing the reserve from the current £350,000 when closing the 2009/10 accounts.

Figure 2 – Risk 66

Risk ID:	66
Risk Description:	If the FireLink/FireControl projects are not effectively managed they may have a significant impact on current and future service delivery. Risks relate to effective management of costs, resources and functionality, prior to, during and post-implementation. Amalgamation of risks ID. 26, 32 and 47
Risk Owner:	Paul Raymond (Chief Fire Officer)
Control Owner:	Executive Group
Risk Score based upon:	
a. NO Controls in place:	9
b. ALL Controls in place:	3
c. CURRENT Controls in place:	9
Actions taken to date:	
	<p>In February 2008 an initial meeting, held with various departmental practitioners from within the Brigade, took an overview of the RMB RCC risk register and previous risks included in the Corporate Risk Register.</p> <p>In May 2008 a report on the outcomes from the discussions by the practitioners was taken to Policy Group. It was agreed that the Executive Group should meet to discuss this issue on a regular basis. They developed a Risk Action Plan to deal with all aspects of this issue. The Executive Group have now met and discussed progress with their Risk Action Plan on nine separate occasions.</p> <p>Towards the end of 2008, the National Project Team moved the completion date back to reflect delays in some aspects of the project. Shropshire's implementation date moved back by 9 months, to 14 February 2011. This delay has potential implications on the Shrewsbury Project and, for this reason, the consideration given to both risks, by the Executive Group, has now been brought in line.</p> <p>In November 2009, a Governmental Select Committee was tasked with doing a 'quick review' of the National Project. The inquiry gathered evidence up to February and released its report on the 1st April 2010, making several recommendations. The report does not identify any changes to the current timeline for completion, with Shropshire cutover date to the RCC being January 2012.</p> <p>Although no formal information has been received on changes to the current timeline of the FiReControl project the recent change of government may have an impact on the overall project. An announcement is expected in September/October 2010.</p>

Figure 3 – Risk 72

Risk ID:	72
Risk Description:	If the Shrewsbury project is not effectively managed it may have a significant impact on current and future service delivery. Risks relate to effective management of costs, resources and functionality, prior to, during and post-implementation.
Risk Owner:	Paul Raymond (Chief Fire Officer)
Control Owner:	Executive Group
Risk Score based upon:	
a. NO Controls in place:	9
b. ALL Controls in place:	9
c. CURRENT Controls in place:	9
Actions taken to date:	
	<p>The initial Executive meeting was held on 14 July, during which the initial risk assessment was conducted. A Risk Action Plan (RAP) was developed for this risk, which captures the risks identified to date.</p> <p>A programme has been established to deliver the required works associated with the refurbishment of the site. These activities include moving departments and functions off site, the appointment of an architect, management of the design process and construction works, and management of the site during these works within the agreed overall budget.</p> <p>Workshops, Stores and Technical Services have been successfully moved off site and relocated to the TA Centre at Sundorne. The Fire Safety Department and District Managers moved to Hafren House, Shelton in early June.</p> <p>All activities and projects are being co-ordinated by a Programme Manager who has developed a Programme Brief and Programme Plan. The Programme Brief and Plan ensure that the programme has corporate sponsorship and support, the appropriate controls and reporting streams and adopts Management of Risk (MOR) methodology.</p> <p>As a result of on-going risk monitoring Risk 78 has been identified</p> <p>The current programme is due to be completed by December 2011.</p>

Figure 4 – Risk 74

Risk ID:	74
Risk Description:	If the material economic uncertainties that exist in the country were to materialise, then the ability for the Service to meet its stated aims and objectives could be severely curtailed.
Risk Owner:	Paul Raymond (Chief Fire Officer)
Control Owner:	Executive Group
Risk Score based upon:	
d. NO Controls in place:	9
e. ALL Controls in place:	9
f. CURRENT Controls in place:	9
Actions taken to date:	
Hazards from this risk relate to:	
i. Financial	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Threat to 3rd year settlement- Reduced future year's settlements- Impact on Shrewsbury project - loss of funds from sale of land- Wellington - potentially lose the opportunity- Changes to exchange rates - additional cost of imports- Lower interest rates - reduced investment returns- But, opportunity for reduced cost and price increases	
ii. Suppliers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Loss of critical suppliers (BA, Communications and Financial services)- Loss of single source suppliers (hydrant keys)- Potential for loss of Shrewsbury building contractors	
iii. Impact on targets	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Most service delivery targets are likely to be impacted in some way	
<p>The Service received the planned 3rd year Grant Settlement. Whilst the risk of further Government action in year cannot be ruled out, the main issue facing the Service is more likely to be from the completely new settlement which is likely to be announced in November/December 2010.</p>	
<p>The Supplier Management Plans have been reviewed.</p>	
<p>Whilst it is too early to know what the long term impact on our targets will be, there has been no discernible impact to date. However, the service is now using "Public Value" to determine future priorities for delivery of the service and is currently engaged in staff consultation regarding potential financial savings and more efficient ways of working.</p>	

Figure 5 –Risk 78

Risk ID:	78
Risk Description:	If the aging IT network is unable to sustain the introduction of new and replacement systems and software, the service may lose its ability to communicate effectively, including loss of the command & control system
Risk Owner:	Steve Worrall (Assistant Chief Fire Officer)
Control Owner:	IT Manager
Risk Score based upon:	
g. NO Controls in place:	9
h. ALL Controls in place:	9
i. CURRENT Controls in place:	9
Actions taken to date:	
	A specialist contractor, Capita, has been engaged to carry out a detailed audit of the current network. Capita has completed the review and reported findings to COG and IT managers on 19 August 2010. This has resulted in a number of priority recommendations which are being taken forward to improve the current performance of the network, deliver adequate resilience, and provide a measure of future proofing (until approximately 2017).

11 Financial Implications

The financial implications are detailed in the main body of the report.

12 Legal Comment

There is no legislative duty for the Fire Authority to assess the risks to which its business objectives are subjected. 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.

13 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.

14 Appendix

Detailed information on all current entries in the Corporate Risk Register

15 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report

Implications of all of the following have been considered and, where they are significant (i.e. marked with an asterisk), the implications are detailed within the report itself.

Business Continuity Planning	*	Member Involvement	*
Capacity		National Framework	
Civil Contingencies Act		Operational Assurance	
Efficiency Savings		Public Value	
Environmental		Retained	
Financial	*	Risk and Insurance	*
Fire Control/Fire Link		Staff	
Information and Communications Technology		Strategic Planning	
Freedom of Information / Data Protection Act / Environmental Information		Equality Impact Assessment	*
Legal	*		

Detailed information on all current entries in the Corporate Risk Register (in order of 'Current Risk' level)

Threat or Opportunity	Risk ID	Description	Risk Owner	Control Owner	Risk with NO Controls	Risk with ALL Controls	Current Risk	Links to other risks
Threat	74	If the material economic uncertainties that exist in the country were to materialise, then the ability for the Service to meet its stated aims and objectives could be severely curtailed.	Paul Raymond	Executive Group	9	9	9	
Threat	17	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	Keith Dixon	9	9	9	
Threat	66	If the FireLink/FireControl projects are not effectively managed they may have a significant impact on current and future service delivery. Risks relate to effective management of costs, resources and functionality, prior to, during and post-implementation. Amalgamation of risks ID. 26, 32 and 47	Paul Raymond	Executive Group	9	3	9	26, 32, 47
Threat	72	If the Shrewsbury project is not effectively managed it may have a significant impact on current and future service delivery. Risks relate to effective management of costs, resources and functionality, prior to, during and post-implementation.	Paul Raymond	Executive Group	9	9	9	
Threat	78	If the aging IT network is unable to sustain the introduction of new and replacement systems and software, the service may lose its ability to communicate effectively, including loss of the command & control system	Steve Worrall	IT Manager	9	1	9	66,72, 65

Threat or Opportunity	Risk ID	Description	Risk Owner	Control Owner	Risk with NO Controls	Risk with ALL Controls	Current Risk	Links to other risks
Threat	75	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	6	4	6	
Threat	35	Information exempt from publication by virtue of the Local Governments Act 1972, Schedule 12A, paragraph 4.	Paul Raymond	John Redmond	6	3	6	12, 23, 36
Threat	11	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	9	6	6	20
Threat	20	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	6	4	6	35, 11
Threat	64	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	6	6	6	33
Threat	68	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	9	2	6	

Threat or Opportunity	Risk ID	Description	Risk Owner	Control Owner	Risk with NO Controls	Risk with ALL Controls	Current Risk	Links to other risks
Threat	51	If the Brigade's data quality systems lack the appropriate quality processes and controls, then the Brigade's funding and its allocation of resources against stated objectives may be compromised.	Steve Worrall	Ged Edwards	9	1	6	21, 16, 26, 44, 48
Threat	65	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	6	1	4	
Threat	70	If Equality and Diversity is not fully mainstreamed and integrated into all Authority activities, there will be adverse impact on financial, ethical and service delivery issues.	Paul Raymond	Lisa Vickers	9	2	3	
Threat	21	If the Authority does not meet all financial regulations, then it may be subject to fraudulent activity, unnecessary or illegal (ultra-vires) expenditure.	Paul Raymond	Keith Dixon	9	3	3	
Threat	44	There are risks inherent in the Fire Authority working in partnership with other agencies/groups. If these are not properly controlled they could potentially impact on the financial standing and reputation of the Fire Authority.	Paul Raymond	John Redmond	6	1	3	30, 32, 41
Threat	76	If new legislation is published, that relates to the Service, and it is not appropriately actioned, then the Service could be penalised with potential consequences on its finances and reputation.	Paul Raymond	John Redmond	6	1	2	
Threat	12	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	2	2	2	35, 36

Threat or Opportunity	Risk ID	Description	Risk Owner	Control Owner	Risk with NO Controls	Risk with ALL Controls	Current Risk	Links to other risks
Threat	16	If the Brigade does not have appropriate procedures in place to meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act, then it may be subject to penalties.	Steve Worrall	Louise Goodhead	6	1	1	
Opportunity	48	If the Authority does not monitor its budgets closely then it could miss the opportunity to reinvest identified under-spends where this occurs in its various budgets, or take action to deal with any loss of service that may have occurred.	Paul Raymond	Joanne Coadey	3	9	9	
Opportunity	33	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	Keith Dixon	4	4	4	64