

**REPORT OF THE HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY  
TO THE CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES ON THE FRA MEETING HELD ON  
18 DECEMBER 2009**

---

<b>1.</b>	<b>ANNUAL INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTION PLAN 2010/11</b>  The Authority adopted the IRMP Annual Action Plan 2010/11, which comprised the following recommendations:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A review of the revised management arrangements at day crewed stations</li><li>2. To further develop local risk profiles to include an assessment of high level salvage risks associated with Heritage Sites</li><li>3. To further develop local risk profiles to include an assessment of potential risk to the environment</li><li>4. To further develop interoperability arrangements with Gloucestershire, South Wales and Mid and West Wales</li><li>5. To provide an optimum level of flood/water first responder cover, requiring back office efficiencies of £36k p.a. The 7 stations to be upgraded for flood work are:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kidderminster</li><li>• Tenbury;</li><li>• Upton-on-Severn;</li><li>• Ross-on-Wye;</li><li>• Pershore;</li><li>• Bromyard and</li><li>• Leintwardine</li></ul></li><li>6. To establish a centre based around the Urban Search and Rescue team to co-ordinate and manage the specialist Technical Rescue functions within the Service.</li></ol>
<b>2.</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT 2008-09</b>  The Deputy Chief Fire Officer reported the outcome of the Authority's Organisational Assessment to the Authority where the Audit Commission had judged the Authority as performing well in 2008 – 09.

**REPORT OF THE HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY  
TO THE CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES ON THE FRA MEETING HELD ON  
18 DECEMBER 2009**

**3. WARWICKSHIRE FRS IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Authority noted that the draft Warwickshire IRMP consultation document included proposals which were of concern to the Authority as follows:

- The reduction in the number of Stations from 19 Stations to 12 Stations and the number of fire appliances from 26 down to 19 with the addition of 2 small rapid response RTC units.
- The Stations at Bidford and Studley, based in south west Warwickshire along the border of Hereford & Worcester, were two of the Stations planned for closure with the loss of 2 appliances.
- Alcester Station, between Bidford and Studley, was planned to be upgraded from Retained to Wholetime/Retained cover.

The CFO outlined the potential impact of these reductions on communities in Hereford and Worcester, and he told the Meeting that the Authority had formally responded to the Warwickshire Improvement Plan consultation, and raised significant concerns about the proposals to reduce operational resources.

The response pointed out that a reduction in the number of Fire Stations and front-line resources across Warwickshire could have a significant effect on our service and communities unless we took action to limit the impact.

Members expressed concern at the failure by Warwickshire to consult with neighbouring Authorities before publishing their draft Plan, and the meeting agreed with the CFO's assessment of the potential impact of the Warwickshire plan on the HWFRA.

The Meeting directed the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive to continue to engage with colleagues in Warwickshire to monitor progress in relation to their proposals and to draw up contingency plans to ensure that communities in Herefordshire and Worcestershire are not adversely affected by Warwickshire's plans.

It was agreed that the Authority should review its position once finalised proposals are made by Warwickshire.

**4. REVIEW OF THE WATER RESCUE STRATEGY**

The Authority noted the review of the Water Rescue Strategy prepared by the Best Value, Policy and Performance Committee.

The Committee held a number of special meetings, including a briefing from Officers, a visit to a current water rescue station to speak to front-line staff (Evesham) and an invitation to all representative bodies to meet with the Committee so that they could seek their views and input.

**REPORT OF THE HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY  
TO THE CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES ON THE FRA MEETING HELD ON  
18 DECEMBER 2009**

	<p>The Committee grouped the issues into three areas of interest, roles and responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) current guidance,</li><li>(ii) training and equipment for flood response, and</li><li>(iii) the financial impact of a specialist flood response capability on Council tax.</li></ul> <p>The Authority noted the Review and resolved that a further review be conducted once the outcomes of the current National Flood Rescue Enhancement Programme are known. It was also resolved that a letter be sent on behalf of the Authority to the Ministers for Communities and Local Government and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, outlining the issues identified and the Authority's ongoing support for Sir Michael Pitt's original recommendations from his review of the 2007 floods.</p>
--	---

**PAUL HAYDEN  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE  
4 JANUARY 2010**

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Any person wishing to seek further information on this report should contact: Corporate Support on 01905 368331. Further information on the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Fire and Rescue Service can also be found on the Internet at ([www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk)).

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Agenda papers of the meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority held on 18 December 2009