



Meeting	Strategic Board	Agenda Item	
Meeting Date	10 December 2019	Report Number	
Report Author:	Assistant Director - Operations		
Presented By	Director of Innovation, Risk & Future Development		
Subject	2020 – 2024 Integrated Risk Management Plan Update		
Type of Report:	Information		

RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the current Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) position and the approach the Service will take moving forward.

BACKGROUND

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) is currently midway through the consultation on the 2020 – 2024 IRMP proposals. The consultation covers a 12 week period and will come to an end 13th December. The approach that was agreed to be taken was that the Service would consult on a series of proposals that it believed would shape the future IRMP.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

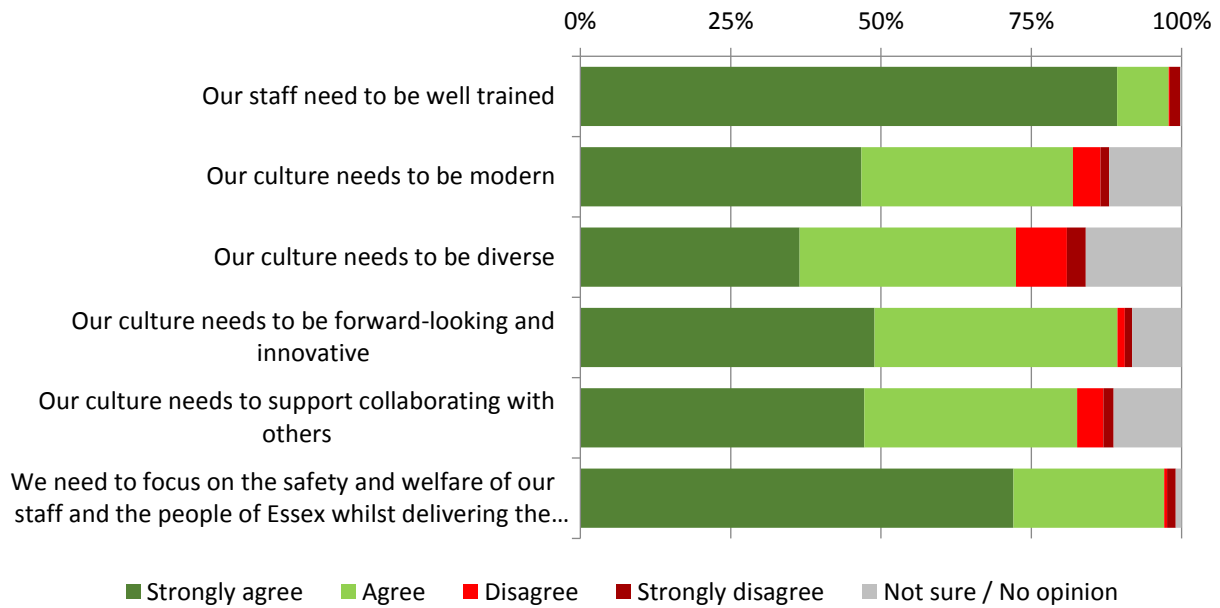
- ECFRS are consulting on seven proposals;
- The current dashboard is attached (appendix A) to this paper. It outlines the current levels of response to the proposals and the nature of the responses;
- In conjunction with the dashboard, the IRMP team receive an analytical report fortnightly which includes a greater level of analysis of the qualitative responses;
- Periodically the Comms team analyse the demographic responses to determine if there are areas of the county that are not responding.

OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS

The seven proposals and key themes as at 31 October (420 responses) are outlined below:

Proposal One: We will develop our workforce strategy to make sure that we continue to train our staff well. We will build a culture that's modern, diverse, forward-looking, innovative and collaborative so that we can meet the changing needs of the communities we serve, focusing strongly on the safety and welfare of our staff and the people of Essex.

% of respondents agreeing/disagreeing with Proposal 1 statements



Training and the safety and welfare of our staff and people are proving prominent in proposal one. Key themes arising from qualitative data shows capability and suitability is considered more important than diversity.

Proposal Two: We will develop a prevention strategy which will clearly set out how we identify the most vulnerable members of our communities. We will target our resources and initiatives in a way that protects those at risk of harm as they live, work and travel.

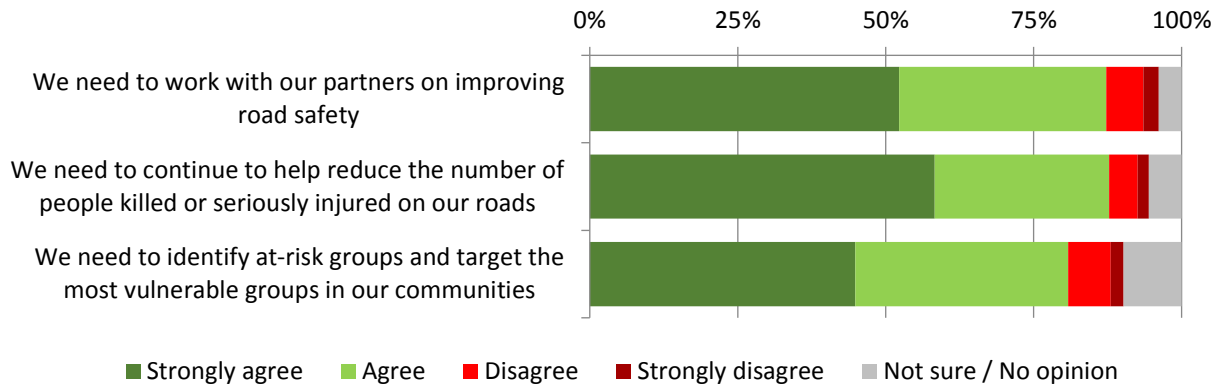
% of respondents agreeing/disagreeing with Proposal 2 statements



Identifying the most vulnerable members of our community is aligning with key themes from proposal two. Key themes include the education of the public, including children and young people and targeted resource.

Proposal Three: We will work with our partners through the Safer Essex Roads Partnership to continue to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads. We will identify groups who are at risk and target our activities at the most vulnerable in our communities.

% of respondents agreeing/disagreeing with Proposal 3 statements



A slight increase in response with proposal three to continue to help reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads. The key theme arising from the qualitative data is that collaboration with others is required.

Proposal Four: We will review how effective our current protection strategy is. If necessary, we will increase training and resources in technical fire safety, and across our service, to make sure we continue to carry out high-risk inspections as needed. We will also work with developers, building control, building owners, businesses and planning teams to influence the fire-safety aspects of future building developments, to protect the people of Essex.

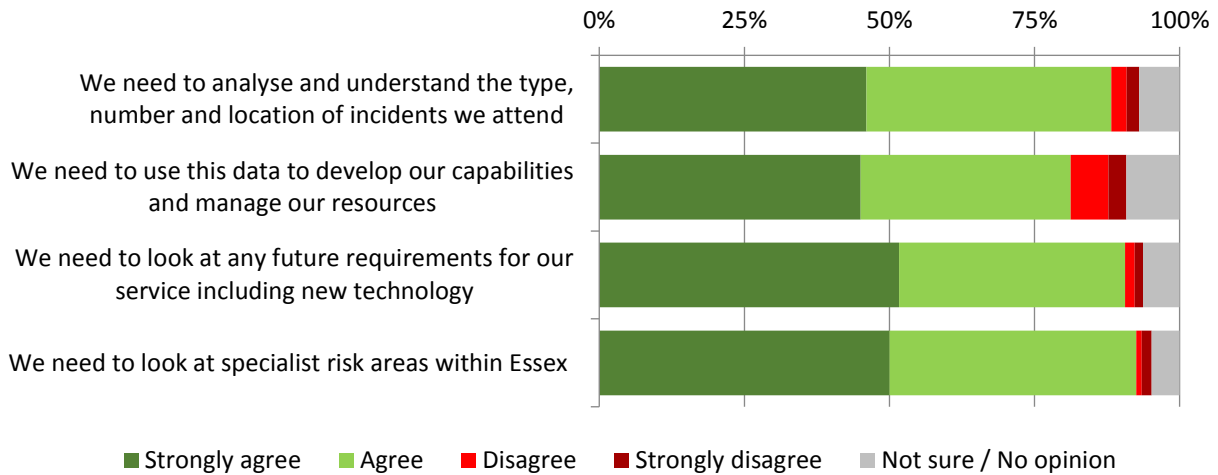
% of respondents agreeing/disagreeing with Proposal 4 statements



A clear focus to influence the fire safety aspects of future building developments within proposal four. This aligns to the key themes arising from the qualitative data to plan prevention activities and target/prioritise resources to provide fire cover.

Proposal Five: We will review the type, number and location of incidents we attend. We will use this information to develop our service and manage our staffing and resources according to the risks identified. We will take into account new technology, future requirements for our service, and the specialist risks within Essex communities.

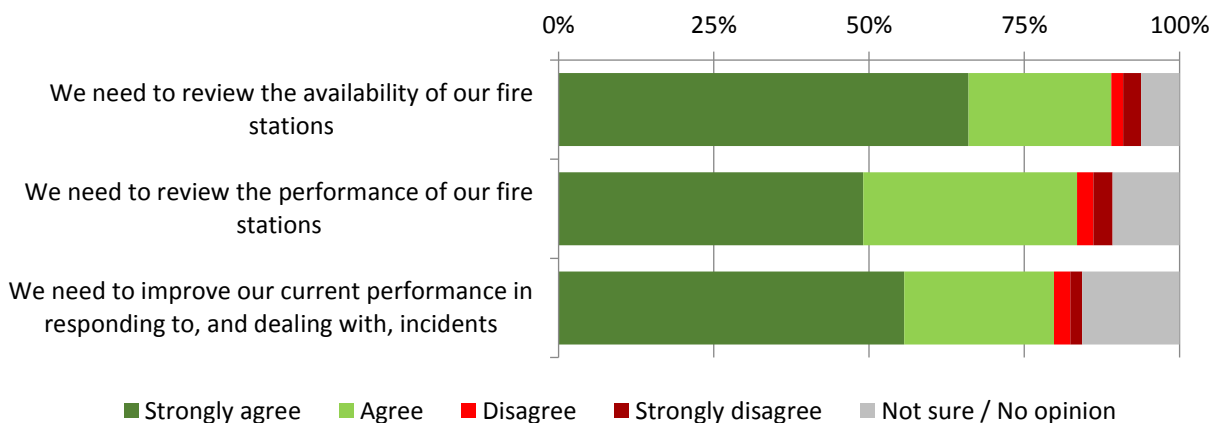
% of respondents agreeing/disagreeing with Proposal 5 statements



An across the board response for proposal five with a higher level of key themes arising. Key themes include more effective working practices.

Proposal Six: We will review the availability and performance of our fire stations to make sure we can meet our standards for responding to incidents. We aim to improve our current performance to reduce risks to our communities from incidents.

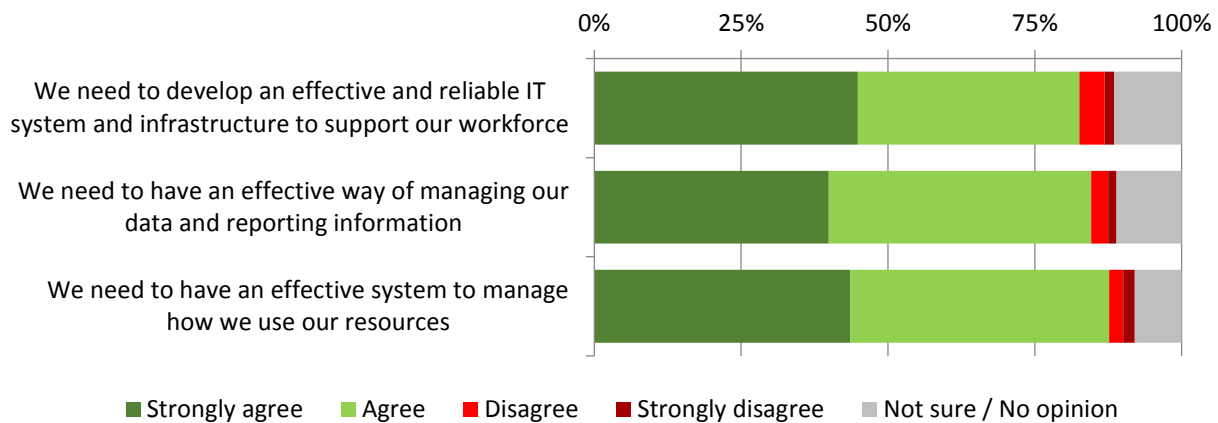
% of respondents agreeing/disagreeing with Proposal 6 statements



The need to review the availability and improve current performance of our fire stations are highlighted within proposal six. Strong key themes arising from the qualitative data show a reduction in resource/performance over the years and an appetite to change in working practices.

Proposal Seven: We will develop an efficient, effective and reliable IT system to support and manage how we use our resources, and to manage our information and how we report it.

% of respondents agreeing/disagreeing with Proposal 7 statements



A broad response across proposal seven with a strong key theme to improve IT systems.

As of the 31 October, 35% of the respondents either worked for or was a relative of someone who works for ECFRS. Over 50% of respondents accessed the consultation via Facebook (40%) or Twitter (14%). Appendix A provides slightly more recent feedback, up to the 11 November (646 respondents), and also provides detail on going internal and external communications.

NEXT STEPS

- The team are reviewing IRMP documents from other organisations and are looking at 'best practice' nationally;
- Following the NFCC Community Risk Programme; 'The National Review of Community Risk Methodology across the UK FRS research report', a national survey undertaken by Nottingham Trent University, it is evident that good use of data/evidence and forward planning form good practice.
- From the 'best practice' review to date, an outline IRMP has started to be developed;
- Over the coming 6 weeks the outline will be populated with the known knowns, these are to include items such as station locations, county demography;
- The information included at this stage will not prejudice the outcomes of the consultation;
- Following the end of the consultation on the 13th Dec, the responses will be collated and the findings used to populate the main body of the IRMP;
- There will be key stakeholder engagement throughout this period and the relevant governance will be included in this;
- The IRMP is on track to deliver within the time frames outlined in the original project plan.

BENEFITS AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

The benefits of this approach are that the IRMP development will mirror best practice and be reflective of the responses from the consultation. It will also link to the Fire and Rescue Plan, the Strategic Assessment of Risk and will drive the Prevention, Protection and Response strategies.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Unknown at this time, further advertising based on response levels may be required. Approval will be sought from SLT for additional spend.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The current approach to engagement is based online; from feedback we have diversified the communications to include the printed press. Further review will determine what further approaches will be taken to ensure parity across the whole county.

WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT

The workforce have been engaged in line with the previously agreed communications plan. Further sessions with department heads and the IRMP team have been added to this plan along with a focussed approach to each proposal to drive engagement. The IRMP team continue to engage with all representative bodies.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

IRMP is a statutory requirement, this approach will ensure the Service meets its statutory duty.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None from this paper.