

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



MEETING	Executive Committee
DATE OF MEETING	29 July 2015
OFFICER	David Sutherland, Acting Director of Finance and Assets
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Phil Gomm
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Partnership Governance update
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>In May 2014, the Executive approved a partnership strategy including a set of 9 key principles that need to be determined in order to justify any relationship with another body as a true partnership.</p> <p>In carrying out this review a formal Partnership Register was established together with a separate list of joint working groups and other fora attended either by officers and/or Members of the Authority that do not meet the fuller criteria for a true partnership.</p> <p>The Executive asked for a review in 12 months of Member and Officer participation in external partnership arrangements and that update is provided in this report, which also takes the opportunity to recommend suggested additions both to the Partnership Register as well as the separate list of joint working groups where the Authority has an interest.</p> <p>Appendix 1 provides an update on participation for those partnerships identified on the agreed Partnership Register in 2014.</p> <p>Appendix 2 shows the Partnership Register with suggested additions in red and Appendix 3 shows the separate list of joint working groups also with suggested additions in red.</p>
ACTION	Decision.
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members approve the revised Partnership Register, including suggested additions, set out in Appendix 2. 2. Members approve the separate list of joint working groups where the Authority has an interest, including suggested additions, set out

	in Appendix 3.
RISK MANAGEMENT	<p>As set out in Section 20 of the Financial Instructions:</p> <p>Each partnership should have a defined responsible manager within the Authority. This person is responsible for ensuring that:</p> <p>The partnership is appraised for financial viability in both the current and future years;</p> <p>The financial risk to the Authority is assessed;</p> <p>Appropriate resources are assigned to the governance of the partnership;</p> <p>The partnership is supported by an appropriate documented agreement which outlines the financial liabilities and accountabilities of the partners, together with procedures for financial transactions and monitoring, and which has been agreed in writing by all partners; and</p> <p>The accounting arrangements are satisfactory.</p> <p>The Director of Finance & Assets must be consulted and their agreement obtained to the acceptability of the details in respect of the above prior to commencement of the Partnership.</p>
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	The Authority's Financial Regulations (E.2) provide that "The Executive is responsible for approving partnership arrangements/joint working initiatives with other local public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations to address local needs."
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION	The partnership and working group arrangements set out within this document are a strong indication in themselves of the Authority's willingness and ability to engage in a collaborative spirit with organisations across a wide spectrum of issues within Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	There are no health and safety implications arising from this report.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.
USE OF RESOURCES	Any existing partnerships have been reviewed for use resource utilisation and new partnerships are considered against the criteria set out in the strategy.

<p>PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>O&A 9/12/10 Update - Significant Governance Issues 2009/10 Internal Audit Report: Review of progress on internal audit recommendations from previous audits</p> <p>O&A 12/5/11 Internal Audit Report: Review of progress on internal audit recommendations from previous audits</p> <p>O&A 22/6/11 Review of Progress on Internal Audit Recommendations Annex</p> <p>O&A 25/9/13 Annual Governance Statement 2012/13. Internal Audit Report: Update of progress of Audit Recommendations</p> <p>Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority Financial Regulations http://www.bucksfire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F5A74AFB-37F7-42D0-9B07-B29E98DF789D/0/08FINANCIALREGULATIONS.pdf</p> <p><i>Evaluating Partnerships, An Overview and Compendium of Approaches</i> CIPFA May 2009 (Copyrighted material) http://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/publications/e/evaluating-partnerships-an-overview-and-compendium-of-approaches</p> <p>Executive 14/5/14 Min EX46 http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/6714/0602/9795/ITEM_4_14-05-14_MINUTES - DRAFT V3 FINAL.pdf</p>
<p>APPENDICES</p>	<p>Appendix 1: Review of Member and Officer participation in Partnerships</p> <p>Appendix 2: Partnership Register – with suggested additions</p> <p>Appendix 3: List of joint working groups / fora attended by the Authority</p>
<p>TIME REQUIRED</p>	<p>10 minutes.</p>
<p>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</p>	<p>David Sutherland dsutherland@bucksfire.gov.uk 01296 744662</p>

Partnership participation review 14/15

1. Safer MK and Safer & Stronger Bucks

Given that both these partnerships operate under the auspices of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the position on whether an exit strategy is required has been reviewed and in both cases is felt to be unnecessary.

In relation to Safer MK Partnership Board, the Area Commander for Service Delivery (Greg Smith) is the appointed lead and one of the five members with voting rights. The Service Delivery Manager for MK (Calum Bell) is the nominated deputy.

The Safer MK Partnership Board has also recently agreed a new strategy that has for the first time managed to get road safety as a primary objective which this Authority will lead on. A measurable outcome will be the reduction in KSI's within Milton Keynes year on year.

The board has also created a new sub group, the Safer MK Business Management Group which has replaced its performance group. The terms of reference are under development with the Service Delivery Manager for MK taking the lead on that.

2. MK Safety Centre

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the MK Safety Centre is currently under review and a more detailed update including financing and length of agreement will be brought to the September 2015 Executive Committee meeting for Members consideration.

Currently the shared risk aspect is shown as limited. This is because the Safety Centre is a charity in its own right with its own insurance and indemnities and this Authority does not specifically underwrite any of the Safety Centre's risks. The board of Trustees is drawn from various interested parties and those with a genuine community interest. This Authority provides an individual to sit as a trustee and currently this is Area Commander Julian Parsons. The Police also provide a Trustee which is usually the LPA Commander from Milton Keynes.

3. Oxfordshire FS and Royal Berkshire FS

This item in the Partnership Register relates to cross border arrangements between the 3 authorities. There is no specific update on this as the arrangements are renewed annually and there is no change in those arrangements to report. However, the new joint control arrangements are beginning to have some impact on the way that cross border arrangements operate and Members can expect an update on this arrangement once the new arrangements have bedded down into a recognisable pattern.

4. USAR Canine – Hampshire FRS

This MoU has been established for a number of years and provides a cost effective way for the Authority to deliver a notable element of an USAR mobilisation that complies with the national requirements, as detailed within the USAR Concept of

Operations document. The MOU with Hampshire FRS was renewed for a further 5 year period as of May 2014.

5. Fire Co-Responder

Co-responding has been going for over a year now, in the first full year (Mar 14 – Feb 15) BMKFRS attended 1766 medical emergency calls from the three Co-responder units, Marlow, Chesham and High Wycombe. Crews are making a unique contribution to public safety and the scheme is expanding.

From the 6 May 2015, Buckingham went live with Co-responding from the Rescue Pump (22P1); this means that between 09.00 – 18.00 hrs daily, the appliance is available to immediately respond to medical emergencies in the area. A car scheme, like the schemes used at Chesham & Marlow, was launched at Buckingham at the end of the May.

BMKFRS have also joined in collaboration with Hampshire, Oxfordshire & Royal Berkshire FRS's with regard to Co-responding in the SCAS region. A Station Commander has been appointed from BMKFRS (and financed jointly by the 4 FRS's) to co-ordinate co-responding across the region with regard to training, response models, roll out of schemes and future partnership working.

6. British Red Cross

The MOU with The British Red Cross Society regarding the housing, maintenance and use of the Fire and Emergency Support Service Vehicle was reviewed in 2014 and considered to remain fit for purpose. The cost to the BMKFRS is minimal and heavily outweighed by the service provided to both BMKFRS and the wider community. The current locations of vehicles are at Princes Risborough and Bletchley. The siting of the vehicle at Bletchley will be reviewed as part of the MK Transformation project.

The MOU is planned to be reviewed again in 2016.

ADDITIONS SINCE MAY 2014

7. Training Partnership – Fire Service College

The training partnership with the Fire Service College (FSC) was approved by the Members of the Executive Committee at its meeting of 15 March 2015. The partnership underpins the Service's Training Strategy and Framework for Training, Learning and Development. It will provide the Authority with external assurance that training and exercising in BMKFRS is being delivered and assessed to a CFOA endorsed nationally recognised standard that will be maintained through regular quality assurance visits to observe the Trainers in their role, and with written feedback being sent to the Service as evidence of performance. In addition to this we will have access to facilities and FSC provided assessors to validate training assessment decisions for operational staff through validation exercising at the FSC.

Performance measures have been established and are monitored quarterly by the Service's Training Strategy Group, and 6 monthly by the Performance Management Board to ensure the partnership is delivering the outcomes required.

It is recommended that this partnership is added to the Partnership Register.

8. Bucks Law Plus

At its meeting of 19 November 2014, the Executive endorsed of the terms of entry into a local authority controlled company (LACC) with Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) for the provision of legal services through an Alternative Business Structure (ABS) known as "Buckinghamshire Law Plus"; and also nominated the Chief Fire Officer to be a director of the LACC and for the CFO to be the representative of the Authority in its capacity as member.

The terms of entry are set out in a Shareholders' Agreement.

As part of that agreement, the Authority is entitled to appoint a director to the board, who in turn may appoint an alternate, to attend and vote at board meetings. In the event that a general meeting is called, a nominee will be required to vote on behalf of the Authority at a general meeting.

It is recommended that this partnership is added to the Partnership Register.

9. TVFCS

The Thames Valley Fire Control Service formally began operations on 22 April 2015.

A formal legal agreement relating to the steady state operation of the TVFCS is in place and this sets out the primary objectives which are:

- To satisfy the core functions of the Fire Authorities as defined in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
- To satisfy the statutory duty of all the Fire Authorities as category one responders as defined in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004
- To improve the resilience of the control room function
- To improve performance
- To generate efficiencies
- To ensure TVFCS is integral in delivering the outputs demanded of the Fire Authorities integrated risk management plans
- To provide the capability for future expansion of TVFCS with other agencies or clients

A Joint Committee is in place and is constituted to provide overall strategic direction and oversight for TVFCS. There are 2 Members of BMKFA nominated on to the TVFCS Joint Committee with senior commander support in attendance.

It is recommended that this partnership is added to the Partnership Register.

10. KFC - Primary Authority Advice

In December 2014 the Authority reached agreement with Kentucky Fried Chicken (Great Britain) Ltd (KFC) to set up a primary authority relationship between the Authority and KFC such that KFC will request 'Primary Authority Advice' as defined in the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008, on behalf of all participating KFC franchisees.

Partnership Governance update

In effect this means that BMKFA will provide advice and guidance to, and on behalf of KFC in the in the UK, for all matters relating to fire safety. The cost of providing the service is recovered by the Authority.

It is recommended that this partnership is added to the Partnership Register.

Appendix 2 - Partnership Register

Partnership Name	Original Signing Date	Is the partnership legally defined and agreed by all partners	Where does it fit within the Fire Authority plan?	Are there clear aims and outcomes for the Partnership	Are the outcomes measurable and agreed by all partners	Is the risk shared as well as the resources	Date of last review by all partners	Could the outcomes be achieved in any other manner	Is there an exit strategy / Should the Authority require one
Safer MK	N/K	Crime & Disorder Act 1998	Vision & Strategic Objectives	Yes	In Part	Yes	Annual	No	No/No
Safer & Stronger Bucks	N/K	Crime & Disorder Act 1998	Vision & Strategic Objectives	Yes	In Part	Yes	Annual	No	No/No
MK Safety Centre	2010	Yes	Strategic Objectives & Local Plan	Yes	Yes, Activity Outcomes, No	Yes (Limited)	Annual	Potentially	Yes/Yes
Oxon FRS/RBFRS	2013	Yes	Protection – Cross Border arrangements	Yes	Not Agreed but Measureable	Yes	Annual	Yes, but at greater cost	Yes/Yes
USAR Canine Hampshire FRS	Feb 2009	Yes	Response/ National Resilience	Yes	Yes	Yes	Feb 2014 (new agreement drafted)	Yes – own canine provision but at greater cost	Yes/Yes
Fire Co-Responder	1/03/14	Yes	Vision & Strategic Objectives	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/06/14	Not by using fire crews as co-responders	Yes/Yes
British Red Cross	2012	No	Prevention	Yes	N/A	Yes	2014	Yes, but at greater cost	Yes/Yes

Recommended additions

Training Partnership – Fire Service College	2015	Yes	Vision & Strategic Objectives	Yes	Yes	Yes	Quarterly	Yes, but it would be more costly	Yes/Yes
Bucks Law Plus	2014	Yes	Improvement (Encourage innovation and creativity)	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	No	Yes/Yes
Thames Valley Fire Control Service	2015	Yes	Response – Steady state operation of the TVFCS	Yes	Yes, as set out in primary objectives	Yes	N/A	Yes, but it would be more costly	Yes/Yes
KFC -Primary Authority Advice	2014	Yes	Protection Policy – Fire Safety	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes, bit less efficiently at national level	Yes/Yes

Appendix 3 - List of joint working groups attended by the Authority

District	Group
AVD	AV CSP Strategy Group
AVD	Aylesbury Vale Local Strategic Partnership
AVD	AV CSP (Implementation)
AVD	AV Community Cohesion Delivery Group
AVD	AVDC ASB Tactical Action Group (TAG)
AVD	AVDC Joint Action Group (JAG)
AVD	Aylesbury LSP
BFRS	Building Control Liaison
BFRS	Fire and Emergency Support Services
BFRS	Safety Advisory Groups
Bucks	Bucks CC Road Safety Team
Bucks	BSP Policy Officers Group
Bucks	Bucks ASB Strategy Group
Bucks	Bucks Equalities Network
Bucks	Chinese Business Community Partnership
Bucks	Community Cohesion & Equalities Forum
Bucks	Bucks Community Safety partnership
Bucks	Bucks Resilience Group
Bucks	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee (MARAC)
Bucks	Youth Inclusion and Support Panels
C/SB	Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership
C/SB	Chiltern and South Bucks Partnership Steering Group
C/SB	Chiltern and South Bucks Community Safety Partnership
C/SB	Chiltern and South Bucks – Joint Action Groups
MK	Milton Keynes Council Road Safety Team
MK	Safe at Home Scheme
MK	Safer MK Performance Group
MK	Safer MK Public Safety
MK	Joint Area Tasking and Coordination (JATAC)
MK	Joint Emergency Services Group
WD	Wycombe CSP (Strategy Group)
WD	Wycombe CSP (Implementation)
WD	Wycombe Community Cohesion Delivery Group
WD	Wycombe Community Cohesion Strategy Group
WD	Wycombe Joint Action Group
WD	Wycombe Partnership (LSP) Executive
WD	Wycombe Partnership (LSP) Full

Recommended additions

Bucks	Safeguarding Adults Board
Bucks	Safeguarding Children Board
MK	MK Safety Advisory Group (MK SAG)
MK	MK Prevent Board
MK	Adults Safeguarding Board
MK	Childrens Safeguarding Board

FRS Area	Group
SE Region	CFOA SE Protection Strategy Group
SE Region	Environment Agency South East (EASE) and FRSs
TV	Local Resilience Forum Regional Contingency Group
SE Region	South East Operational Response & Resilience Group
TV	Local Resilience Forum Communications Group
TV	Thames Valley Cross Border Group
TV	Thames Valley NVQ Centre
SE Region	South East Operational Policy & Procedure (SEOPAP)
FRS	Silverstone Major event group

Recommended additions

SE Region	CFOA SE Prevention Strategy Group
SE Region	Employee Development Group