



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Fire Authority
DATE OF MEETING	22 October 2014
OFFICER	Greg Smith, Head of Service Development
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Andy Dransfield
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) Programme
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>At its meeting on 31 October 2012 the Authority, when agreeing to participate in the Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) Programme, delegated authority to the Chief Fire Officer to agree the contractual arrangements with Oxfordshire County Council and Royal Berkshire Fire Authority in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman; and that proposals for the Terms of Reference of the Members' Governance Arrangements be brought to a future meeting of the Authority.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to update the Authority on key aspects of the Thames Valley Fire Control Service Programme; and for the Authority to agree the Terms of Reference and Constitution of the Joint Committee and to appoint Authority members to it.</p>
ACTION	Information and Decision.
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The progress report (Appendix A) be noted. 2. The Authority constitutes and participates in the Thames Valley Fire Control Joint Committee comprised of representatives of Oxfordshire County Council and Royal Berkshire Fire Authority. 3. The Authority delegates such of its functions to the Thames Valley Fire Control Joint Committee as are necessary to enable it to fulfil its terms of reference (Appendix Bi) and its Standing Orders (Appendix Bii). 4. The Authority appoints two of its members as its representatives on the Thames Valley Fire Control Joint Committee. 5. The Authority nominates one of its members as a substitute member in the event that neither of its appointed members are able to attend a

	<p>meeting of the Thames Valley Fire Control Joint Committee.</p>
<p>RISK MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>It was noted in the last update to the Authority that there had been a considerable reduction in the number of Control Room staff. This number remains unchanged and an agreement has been reached with Control Room staff to ensure that cover is maintained at an adequate level. Control Room staff remain extremely proactive in providing additional cover where necessary.</p> <p>Further periods of national industrial action have taken place and whilst no significant delay to the delivery of programme activities has been seen, it should be noted it does impact on officer resources who provide industrial action support within the service.</p>
<p>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>The Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) delivery into the TVFCS Programme remains aligned with forecast spend. The projected steady state costs and apportionment model is being reviewed as part of the work to agree the steady state legal agreement.</p>
<p>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>The basis of the collaboration in establishing the Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) was set out in a Programme Partnering Agreement (PPA) between Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA) dated 14 September 2012 and a further agreement between OCC and RBFA on the one part and BMKFA on the other part dated 22 March 2013. The TVFCS has been established by the fire and rescue authorities in order to fulfil the statutory responsibilities placed on them by sections 7(2)(c); 8(2)(c); and 9(3)(c) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 .</p> <p>It was a requirement by OCC and RBFA of the Authority joining the collaboration that it agree: a) to the governance arrangements proposed in the PPA; b) to discharge their statutory functions jointly pursuant to section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972; and c) for the TVFCS to be overseen and managed by officers of the three authorities acting together through the Coordination Group, primarily using staff and premises of RBFA, who will operate the TVFCS in the Primary Control Room. The details of this arrangement will be set out in a "Steady State Agreement" to be agreed by the Chief Fire Officer before the TVFCS becomes operational.</p> <p>Combined Fire Authorities may appoint and participate in a joint committee under sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972; and OCC may do so under the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.</p>

	<p>A joint committee appointed by two or more authorities under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 but to which the Authority appoints less than three members is exempt from the political balance rules under section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.</p> <p>Allowances for those members attending the Joint Committee will be due in accordance with the Authority's prevailing Scheme of Allowances. The secretariat role will rotate with the Chairmanship of the Joint Committee (Appendix Bii, Clause 11) and the costs of the secretariat function will be borne by the relevant authority for the relevant year.</p>
HEALTH AND SAFETY	<p>It was identified in the last update paper regarding this Programme that additional shifts provided by remaining Control Room Staff may have a negative impact. It is pleasing to report that, to date, shifts continue to be covered and that sickness levels continue to remain low.</p>
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	<p>An initial Person Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the initial Fire Control Project plan.</p>
USE OF RESOURCES	<p>The core delivery team still consists of two officers; however this has been temporarily enhanced by a further resource who has been tasked with the development and delivery of Programme awareness and training to all affected BFRS personnel.</p> <p>The delivery of BFRS data into the TVFCS development mobilising system has caused concern. This has been mitigated by assigning a member of staff to this task on a fulltime basis until the task is complete.</p>
PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS	<p>Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority held on Wednesday 31 October 2012</p> <p>http://10.0.99.2/NR/ronlyres/0A2255BE-5D72-40AB-A89D-9D1383B1454E/0/FireAuthority19December2012.pdf</p> <p>Fire Authority Meeting – Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) Programme – 18 December 2013</p> <p>http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/2014/0622/0926/BMKFA18122013.pdf</p>
APPENDICES	<p>Appendix A – TVFCS Programme Update</p> <p>Appendix B - Terms of Reference and Constitution of the Joint Committee</p>
TIME REQUIRED	<p>15 minutes.</p>

REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	GM Marie Crothers mcrothers@bucksfire.gov.uk 01296 744430
--	---