



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

<b>MEETING</b>	Fire Authority
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	10 February 2016
<b>OFFICER</b>	Neil Boustred, Head of Service Delivery
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Councillor Catriona Morris
<b>SUBJECT OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>Milton Keynes Safety Centre Review of Funding Agreement</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p><i>The purpose of this report is to gain approval from the Authority for a 3-year Funding Agreement with the Milton Keynes Safety Centre comprising a £25,000 per annum grant, plus up to £2,000 per annum contribution towards travel costs.</i></p> <p>The Authority and the Milton Keynes Safety Centre (Hazard Alley) have had a Funding Agreement in place since 2011 which is due to expire on 31 March 2016.</p> <p>The Funding Agreement covered a grant from the Authority to the Safety Centre of £25k per annum for five years from 1 April 2011 plus provision of a vehicle for use by the Safety Centre staff to undertake educational activities. The cost to the Authority of the provided vehicle was around £2200 per annum. In return the Safety Centre pledged to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide safety education for children between the ages of 7-12</li> <li>2. Provide safety education for vulnerable groups</li> <li>3. Report periodically as to the Safety Centre performance.</li> </ol> <p>The key differences between the current agreement and that which is being proposed is that it is for three years as opposed to five; the costs for external educational work are reduced; and the outcomes required are more targeted.</p> <p>The Safety Centre has indicated that it is in agreement with the proposed revised terms.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	For decision.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	It is recommended that a new funding agreement with the Safety Centre (Hazard Alley) Ltd on the terms set out in this report be approved.
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	Whilst road safety is not statutory duty for the Authority its financial support equates to circa 12% of

	<p>the Safety Centre’s annual income.</p> <p>Reducing the amount of funding for the Safety Centre would fundamentally change the way it has to operate.</p> <p>It should be noted that Thames Valley Police provide a £5000 grant per year, which has to be applied for annually and Milton Keynes Council Road Safety have provided a one-off grant of £20,000 in 2015.</p>
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<p>The current agreement committed the Authority to a grant of £25K per annum for 5 years (2011-2016). The proposed renewed arrangement would commit the Authority to £25K a year for the next 3 financial years (total £75K).</p> <p>The current agreement commits the Authority to provide a vehicle for 5 years (2011–2016). Through negotiations with the Safety Centre management it has become clear that providing a vehicle is no longer the best use of resources. A new arrangement has been agreed in principle with the Safety Centre, where a grant is provided for traveling expenses incurred by Safety Centre staff undertaking outreach activities using their own vehicles or public transport. Staff would claim travelling expenses (at a casual user mileage rate for use of own vehicles based on HMRC rates) and a claim submitted to the Authority once a year by the safety centre. This grant is capped at a maximum of £2000 per annum. This agreement will commit the Authority to a maximum expenditure of £6000 during the course of the Funding Agreement. The current arrangement costs the service around £2200 per annum.</p>
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<p>The funding arrangement supports the Authority’s obligation to promote fire safety and is therefore permitted by Section 5A of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.</p> <p>EU ‘State aid’ rules prohibit subsidies by local authorities when the subsidy might confer an unfair advantage to one organisation. There is no specific exemption for third sector organisations however the proposal remains within the current de minimis level of EUR 200,000 over three fiscal years.</p>
<b>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION</b>	<p>A partnership arrangement has been in existence for many years with the Authority being one of the driving forces for the project’s creation.</p> <p>The Safety Centre, itself, actively collaborates with other Safety Centres through a national association.</p>
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>	No direct impact.
<b>EQUALITY AND</b>	Funding is made conditional in the Funding Agreement

<p><b>DIVERSITY</b></p>	<p>that the Safety Centre complies with the Authority’s anti-discrimination requirements.</p>
<p><b>USE OF RESOURCES</b></p>	<p>The proposals are in line with the Authority’s Corporate Vision and associated strategic objectives to make Buckinghamshire &amp; Milton Keynes the safest place to live, work and travel.</p> <p>The Safety Centre’s performance against the Funding Agreement would continue to be monitored by a nominated officer.</p> <p>The Authority continues to provide an officer to sit on the board of trustees. This position is currently filled by the current Head of Service Development.</p> <p>From 2011-2014 the Safety Centre has provided safety training in 12 scenarios in two hour sessions for 20143 children from Milton Keynes and 17056 children from Buckinghamshire.</p> <p>The Safety Centre currently has around 18000 visitors per annum.</p> <p>For the Authority to reach this number of children each year to provide such training would cost well in excess of £25K. It also allows the Authority’s own educational programmes to concentrate on key stage areas outside of those covered by the Safety Centre.</p> <p>As part of the review of the Funding Agreement, the Safety Centre was subject to a critical examination and report by the Authority’s Community Safety Officer. The report recommended a number of improvements to the safety scenarios. The associated improvements have been agreed with the Safety Centre and are now part of an improvement schedule, which are detailed in the proposed revised Funding Agreement namely:</p> <p><b>Milton Keynes Schools Agreement.</b> The Safety Centre agrees to a minimum target of 3000 children from Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes schools per year, attending the Safety Centre for safety training.</p> <p><b>Home Fire Safety Scenario.</b> The Safety Centre agrees to develop and enhance the provision of a mobile phone type device to simulate dialling 999 and summoning the Fire Service.</p> <p><b>Smoke Alarm Testing.</b> The Safety Centre will develop alternative ways of teaching and encouraging testing of smoke alarms and possibly using a smoke alarm tester such as ‘Goodpoint’.</p> <p><b>Fire and Evacuation Plan for Teacher’s Packs.</b> The Safety Centre and the Authority will work together to develop a fire evacuation plan for teachers’ packs.</p>

	<p><b>Water Safety Scenario.</b> The Safety Centre agrees to develop and enhance the existing water scenario by providing a more realistic mannequin or splashing water simulation during 2016/17.</p> <p><b>Safe Place to Cross.</b> The Safety Centre will investigate and deliver the provision of a screen and projection of moving vehicles images with pedestrian crossing lights, to enhance the existing road crossing scenario and make it more realistic.</p> <p><b>Safe Places to Cross.</b> An area of the Safety Centre has been identified for developing an enhanced safety scenario specifically focused on safe crossing of roads in MK designed to encourage the safe use of 'red ways' and underpasses.</p> <p><b>Website Optimisation.</b> The Safety Centre agrees to undertake work to develop website optimisation through registering with 'Google Adwords'.</p> <p><b>Fire Safety Workbooks.</b> The Safety Centre and the Authority agree to work to develop the fire scenario aspects of the workbook and/or a separate booklet that concentrates on fire safety.</p>
<p><b>PROVENANCE SECTION &amp; BACKGROUND PAPERS</b></p>	<p>None.</p>
<p><b>APPENDICES</b></p>	<p>None.</p>
<p><b>TIME REQUIRED</b></p>	<p>10 Minutes.</p>
<p><b>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</b></p>	<p>Calum Bell  <a href="mailto:cbell@bucksfire.gov.uk">cbell@bucksfire.gov.uk</a>            07766340974</p>