



## Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

<b>MEETING</b>	Fire Authority
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	14 December 2016
<b>OFFICER</b>	Lynne Swift, Director of People and Organisational Development
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Councillor Roger Reed
<b>SUBJECT OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>Fire Reform - Collaborative Working update</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>This report provides an update on collaborative working primarily within the Thames Valley. Also included is the Authority's contribution on a range of national and regional collaborative programmes which support the Authority's reform agenda and in time will enhance Thames Valley collaborative outcomes.</p> <p>At its meeting on 10 June 2015 Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority (BMKFA) approved a 'Fire and Rescue Collaboration in the Thames Valley' Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Oxfordshire and Royal Berkshire Fire Authorities. The purpose of this MOU is to commit each fire and rescue service to look at collaboration within the Thames Valley as a first option, to reduce cost, improve quality and improve resilience.</p> <p>At its Executive Committee meeting on 29 July 2015, a further MOU; Property Sharing and Co-Location of Police and Fire and Rescue Services in the Thames Valley was approved for signature by the Chairman.</p> <p>The Property Sharing MOU was also approved by Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, Oxfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley.</p> <p>Annex A of this report details Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Services' main collaboration achievements to date, building on the establishment of the Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS), which is the most significant example of collaboration in action.</p> <p>Annex B outlines a range of national and regional examples of collaborative working which are both beneficial to Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority (BMKFA) and the wider public sector. These examples also support the Government's reform agenda, set out more recently by the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service 'Three Pillars of</p>

	<p>Reform’ priorities.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fire-minister-speaks-at-cfoa-conference">https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fire-minister-speaks-at-cfoa-conference</a></p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Information.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<p>1. That the Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Services collaborative achievements to date, set out in Annex A, are noted;</p> <p>2. That the range of national and regional examples of collaborative working, set out in Annex B, are noted.</p>
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	<p>Maintaining resilience and focus on day to day service delivery is ensured by allocating dedicated resources to the Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Services collaboration programme as required. For example a dedicated Programme Manager has been recruited.</p> <p>The Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Services collaboration programme maintains its own risk register. Procedures are in place to escalate to Steering Group and beyond as part of the programme protocols and standard programme management arrangements.</p> <p>External local government and potential governance model reviews within the Thames Valley may impact on senior management capacity to maintain the required pace of Thames Valley and broader collaborations. This risk could be mitigated by a programme of sharing senior officers across the Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Services, to free up further capacity.</p> <p>The major national and regional collaboration programmes also maintain appropriate risk registers and these are managed through defined project management guidelines.</p>
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<p>The financial benefits of collaboration will naturally vary depending upon the type of service or procurement. The recent collaborative work between the Thames Valley Fire Authorities produced savings on collective budgets of well over £700k over the four years in which vehicles will be procured. This in itself has generated a move toward standardising the equipment on those vehicles which in turn will generate more savings and incidentally will be a significant aid toward use standard operating procedures.</p> <p>National and regional collaborations that require funding are either covered within existing budgets or established Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) funding mechanisms.</p>

<p><b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b></p>	<p>To support collaboration to become more widespread at a local level, the Government set out in "Enabling Closer Working between the Emergency Services: Consultation response and next steps", its intention to introduce a new statutory duty on the three emergency services to consider opportunities to collaborate and to give effect to collaboration proposals where it would be in the interests of their efficiency or effectiveness.</p> <p>The result has been the Policing and Crime Bill which will introduce this new statutory duty. It does not specify how the services should collaborate except for high level provisions and restrictions; neither does it affect the scope of any existing powers of the emergency services to exercise their functions jointly or on behalf of one another or otherwise cooperate.</p> <p>It provides for collaboration agreements to be made between police bodies, fire and rescue bodies and ambulance trusts. This would not affect the status of existing collaborations, such as those detailed in Annexes A and B to the report. However, they must include at least two different emergency services and can involve more than one of each emergency service. The legislation would permit local authorities, health bodies and the voluntary sector to be joined in a collaboration agreement</p> <p>There will be specific requirements for the police, fire and rescue and emergency ambulance services to keep under consideration opportunities to collaborate with one another, and further, where it would be in the interests of efficiency or effectiveness of at least two of the services, for those services to give effect to such collaboration by entering into a collaboration agreement</p>
<p><b>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION</b></p>	<p>The Authority has committed to a default position of collaboration with Thames Valley Fire Authorities unless a clear business case favours an alternative collaborative option.</p> <p>The Thames Valley Fire Services Collaboration Programme set out in Annex A demonstrates significant collaborative working.</p>
<p><b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b></p>	<p>Collaborative working options to deliver health and safety services are included within the Thames Valley Collaboration programme, for consideration.</p>
<p><b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY</b></p>	<p>Considerations of equality and diversity issues are built into individual collaboration programmes.</p>
<p><b>USE OF RESOURCES</b></p>	<p><b>Strategic context;</b> The vision for Thames Valley Fire Services</p>

	<p>Collaboration is: 'By 2020, provide aligned service delivery and a workforce development strategy that delivers interoperability and flexible deployment across the Thames Valley. This is supported by three critical success factors outlined in Annex A.</p> <p><b>Communication with stakeholders;</b></p> <p>A joint communications programme has been developed which aims to optimise stakeholder engagement and employee involvement. Timing of key communications will be coordinated.</p> <p><b>The system of internal control;</b></p> <p>A Thames Valley Collaboration Steering Group is in place, represented by a director lead from each service, accountable for delivering the programme.</p> <p>The Thames Valley programme is managed by a recently appointed Programme Manager, operating established Prince 2 methodology.</p> <p>Each national and regional programme has its own governance arrangements.</p> <p><b>The management of the asset base;</b></p> <p>Collaborative opportunities will always be actively sought that allow for efficient use of property and equipment assets between authorities, whether that be shared use, shared procurement or shared back office resources and systems in respect of asset management.</p>
<p><b>PROVENANCE SECTION &amp; BACKGROUND PAPERS</b></p>	<p>Property Sharing and Co-Location of Police and Fire and Rescue Services in the Thames Valley – Executive Committee 29 July 2015:  <a href="http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/5614/3740/2436/ITEM_1_2_Memorandum_of_Understanding_with_PCC_occ_rbf_a_2_with_appendix.pdf">http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/5614/3740/2436/ITEM_1_2_Memorandum_of_Understanding_with_PCC_occ_rbf_a_2_with_appendix.pdf</a></p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding with (MOU) with Royal Berkshire and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Services – Fire Authority 10 June 2015:  <a href="http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/7314/5563/7856/ITEM_1_5_Memorandum_of_Understanding_with_Royal_Berks_hire_and_Oxfordshire_Fire_and_Rescue_Services.com_pressed.pdf">http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/7314/5563/7856/ITEM_1_5_Memorandum_of_Understanding_with_Royal_Berks_hire_and_Oxfordshire_Fire_and_Rescue_Services.com_pressed.pdf</a></p> <p>Enabling Closer Working between the Emergency Services: Consultation response and next steps, HM Government 26 January 2016  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/495371/6.1722_HO_Enabling_Closer_Working_Between_the_Emergency_Services_Consult....pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/495371/6.1722_HO_Enabling_Closer_Working_Between_the_Emergency_Services_Consult....pdf</a></p> <p>Policing and Crime Bill:</p>

	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/policing-and-crime-bill">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/policing-and-crime-bill</a></p> <p>Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, Brandon Lewis, addresses audience at the 2016 Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) conference:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fire-minister-speaks-at-cfoa-conference">https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fire-minister-speaks-at-cfoa-conference</a></p> <p>Fire Reform – delivering the Authority’s Workforce Reform Programme (Executive Committee 21 September 2016):</p> <p><a href="http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/2114/7333/8207/ITEM_8_Fire_Reform_Report_Executive_21092016_Appendices.pdf">http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/2114/7333/8207/ITEM_8_Fire_Reform_Report_Executive_21092016_Appendices.pdf</a></p>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<p>Annex A Collaboration across Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Services</p> <p>Annex B Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services National and Regional Collaborative Initiatives</p>
<b>TIME REQUIRED</b>	15 minutes.
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