



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Fire Authority
DATE OF MEETING	18 October 2017
OFFICER	Lynne Swift, Director of People and Organisational Development
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Roger Reed
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Fire Reform - Collaborative Working update
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>At the 7 June 2017 Fire Authority meeting, Members requested a report on a range of aspects of collaboration. This report is a companion report to Item 8.</p> <p>Since the previous collaboration update to the Authority on 14 December 2016, collaboration between the three Thames Valley Fire Authorities (TVFRAs) and in addition with Thames Valley Police (TVP) and other emergency services continues at pace, progressing effective initiatives and new ways of working which aim to deliver improved outcomes for our communities.</p> <p>Part of the rationale for the new Fire and Rescue Service Inspectorate (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service – HMICFRS) will be to ensure better outcomes for the public. The Authority's approach to collaboration will work towards this aim and also provide evidence for this improvement.</p> <p>The Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority (BMKFA) approach to fire and rescue collaboration was formalised by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) '<i>Fire and Rescue Collaboration in the Thames Valley</i>' approved with Oxfordshire and Royal Berkshire Fire Authorities in June 2015. This MOU commits each fire and rescue service to consider collaboration within the Thames Valley as a first option to improve quality, improve resilience and reduce costs.</p> <p>A further MOU covering Property Sharing and Co-Location of Police and Fire and Rescue Services in the Thames Valley was approved at the July 2015 BMKFA Executive Committee and also by Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, Oxfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for the Thames Valley.</p> <p>Annex A sets out the main collaborative work programmes across the Thames Valley Fire and</p>

	<p>Emergency Services.</p> <p>Annex B provides updates on national collaborative programmes which support the Authority's reform agenda and which enhance aspects of the Thames Valley collaborative outcomes.</p>
ACTION	Noting.
RECOMMENDATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the collaborative work in progress across the Thames Valley Fire and Emergency Services as set out in Annex A be noted. 2. That the range of BMKFA supported national and regional collaborative working programmes set out in Annex B be noted.
RISK MANAGEMENT	<p>Maintaining resilience and focus on day to day service delivery is enhanced by ensuring that collaborative projects proactively evaluate resource utilisation.</p> <p>The Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Services collaboration programme was reviewed and refocused in June 2017 to match priorities to capacity. Each programme has its own risk register which are subject to standard risk management and escalation procedures.</p> <p>External factors such as local government and potential governance model reviews within the Thames Valley may impact on senior management capacity to maintain the required pace of progressing Thames Valley and broader collaborations. This risk will be monitored and programmes adjusted accordingly.</p> <p>The major national and regional collaboration programmes also maintain appropriate risk registers and these are managed through defined project management guidelines.</p>
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	<p>The financial benefits of collaboration will naturally vary depending upon the type of service or procurement arrangements. Major collaboration projects are subject to normal officer and member approval protocols.</p> <p>The recent collaborative work on Appliances 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 using standard operating procedures.</p> <p>National and regional collaborations that require funding are either covered within existing budgets or for Fire-Fire by established National Fire Chiefs</p>

	Council (NFCC) funding mechanisms.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	None arising from the recommendations. The broader legal context of the recommendations is set out in Agenda Item 8.
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE	<p>The Policing and Crime Act 2017 requires the Authority to keep opportunities for collaboration with the police and ambulance services under review. The Authority has committed to a default position of collaboration with Thames Valley FRAs unless a clear business case favours an alternative collaborative option.</p> <p>The progress updates in Annexes A and B demonstrate significant collaborative working.</p>
HEALTH AND SAFETY	Collaborative working options to deliver health, safety and welfare services are included within the Thames Valley Collaboration programme, for consideration.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	Considerations of equality and diversity issues are built into the individual collaboration programmes. For example the Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Services collaborative recruitment and apprenticeships programmes set out processes which seek to increase the diversity of the workforce.
USE OF RESOURCES	<p>Strategic context – BMKFA refreshed Corporate Plan 2015 to 2020</p> <p>In September 2016, Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, Brandon Lewis, set out the government’s strategic reform agenda for the Fire and Rescue Service in a speech to the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) conference. He identified ‘three distinct pillars of transformation’; efficiency and collaboration; accountability and transparency; and workforce reform.</p> <p>The Authority’s approach to collaborative working aligns well with the government reform agenda and is well defined to support the strategic aims set out within the Corporate Plan 2015 to 2020.</p> <p>Communication with stakeholders;</p> <p>Joint communication plans are developed which are specific to each collaboration project to optimise stakeholder engagement and employee involvement. Timings of any key communications are coordinated.</p> <p>BMKFA communications are via normal reporting and cascade mechanisms.</p> <p>The system of internal control;</p> <p>A Thames Valley Collaboration Programme Board covering the three Fire and Rescue Services is in place represented by the Chief Fire Officers. They are</p>

	<p>supported by a Steering Group with a director lead from each service, accountable for delivering the programme.</p> <p>Arrangements to incorporate Police and other Emergency Services are being considered. Each national programme has its own governance arrangements.</p> <p>The management of the asset base;</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>PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>Fire Reform – Collaborative Working update CFA 14 December 2016: http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/9214/8068/6630/ITEM_1_3_FIRE_REFORM - COLLABORATIVE WORKING cover report 14122016 CFA Annexes.pdf</p> <p>The 2017 Police and Crime Act: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/policing-and-crime-bill</p> <p>Property Sharing and Co-Location of Police and Fire and Rescue Services in the Thames Valley – Executive Committee 29 July 2015: http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/5614/3740/2436/ITEM_1_2_Memorandum_of_Understanding_with_PCC_occ_rbf_a_2_with_appendix.pdf</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding with (MOU) with Royal Berkshire and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Services – Fire Authority 10 June 2015: 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</p> <p>Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, Brandon Lewis, addresses audience at the 2016 Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) conference: https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fireminister-speaks-at-cfoa-conference</p>
<p>APPENDICES</p>	<p>Annex A - Collaborative Working Programmes across the Thames Valley Fire and Emergency Services.</p> <p>Annex B - BMKFA supported National Collaborative Initiatives.</p>
<p>TIME REQUIRED</p>	<p>10 Minutes.</p>

**REPORT ORIGINATOR
AND CONTACT**

Lynne Swift

Director of People and Organisational Development

lswift@bucksfire.gov.uk

01296 744679