



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Fire Authority
DATE OF MEETING	12 December 2018
OFFICER	Lynne Swift, Director People and Organisational Development
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Roger Reed
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Emergency Services Collaboration in the Thames Valley
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The purpose of this report is to update Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority (BMKFA) on collaborative working within the Thames Valley, and to note the 'Emergency Services Collaboration in the Thames Valley' report as set out in Annex A.</p> <p>The report was commissioned by the Emergency Services Thames Valley Collaboration Executive Board (ESTVCEB) to demonstrate to the public and other key stakeholders the commitment to collaboration across the constituent emergency services of the Thames Valley.</p> <p>This report was initially presented to the Thames Valley Emergency Services Collaboration Steering Group (TVESCSG) at its meeting on 19 March 2018. The Steering Group's consideration included the terms of reference and membership of the TVESCSG (section 6 of Annex A), as part of the governance structures that enable and facilitate the collaboration programme.</p> <p>Following feedback from TVESCSG members, the Steering Group terms of reference were subsequently reviewed at the TVESCSG meeting held on 24 September 2018. The revised report, with the corrected terms of reference, is now attached as Annex A.</p> <p>The report outlines the statutory duties within the Policing and Crime Act 2017 and details the initiatives that have been actioned to date, including case studies. The initiatives are benchmarked against the National Overview Report 2016, produced by the Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group.</p> <p>The main areas of focus of the report are the plans to improve collaboration in the future, and the current Phase One projects which include objectives and deliverables, success criteria, assurance, monitoring and review processes.</p> <p>Each constituent member of the ESTVCSG is presenting this report, for information, through their relevant</p>

	governance channels.
ACTION	For noting.
RECOMMENDATIONS	It is recommended that the Emergency Services Collaboration in the Thames Valley Report (Annex A and Appendix 1) and the terms of reference of the three respective governance bodies be noted.
RISK MANAGEMENT	<p>Maintaining resilience and focus on day to day service delivery is enhanced by ensuring that collaborative projects proactively evaluate and optimise resource utilisation.</p> <p>The Thames Valley Emergency Services collaboration programme was reviewed in Summer 2017, and this included evaluating priorities against capacity to deliver.</p> <p>Each project set out in Annex A has its own risk register, subject to standard risk management and escalation procedures. For BMKFA, this will include following its Integrated Impact Assessment procedures for individual projects.</p> <p>Programme Management arrangements are in place for Fire–Fire collaboration with a dedicated, joint-funded Project Office resource employed by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS). Duties include coordination of risk registers.</p> <p>External factors such as local government and potential governance model reviews within the Thames Valley may impact on senior capacity to maintain the required pace of collaborative progress. This potential risk will be monitored on an ongoing basis, and mitigating actions taken as required.</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 and associated equipment between the Thames Valley Fire Authorities produced savings on collective budgets of well over £700k over the four years in which they will be procured. This in itself has generated a move toward standardising the equipment on those vehicles, which 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 Council (NFCC) funding mechanisms.</p>
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	None arising from the recommendations.
CONSISTENCY WITH	The Policing and Crime Act 2017 requires the Authority to

<p>THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE</p>	<p>keep opportunities for collaboration with the police and ambulance services under review. The 'Emergency Services Collaboration in the Thames Valley Report' sets out how the Authority can evidence compliance with that duty.</p>
<p>HEALTH AND SAFETY</p>	<p>Collaborative working options to deliver health, safety and welfare aspects of the Thames Valley collaboration programme are considered within each project.</p>
<p>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY</p>	<p>Considerations of equality and diversity issues are built into the individual collaboration projects. For example, the Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Services collaborative recruitment and apprenticeships programme set out processes which seek to increase the diversity of the workforce.</p>
<p>USE OF RESOURCES</p>	<p>Strategic context</p> <p>The Authority's approach to collaborative working aligns well with the Policing and Crime Act 2017, 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>A joint communications programme is being developed to coincide with constituent members of the Emergency Services Thames Valley Collaboration Group endorsing this report.</p> <p>The system of internal control;</p> <p>Section six of the Annex A report sets out terms of governance arrangements. Regular updates will be provided to the Emergency Services Thames Valley Collaboration Steering Group and full Authority.</p> <p>The management of the asset base;</p> <p>Collaborative opportunities will be actively sought that allow for efficient use of property and equipment assets between Authorities. This may be shared use, shared procurement, or shared back office and systems in respect of asset management.</p>
<p>PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>Report to the Fire Authority held 18 October 2017; The Policing and Crime Act 2017 and the Authority: http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/8415/0755/2971/ITEM_8_The_Policing_and_Crime_Act_2017_and_the_Authority_Cover_ReportAppendices-min.pdf</p> <p>Report to the Fire Authority held 18 October 2017; Fire Reform – Collaborative Working Update: http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/5915/0719/9464/ITEM_9_181_02017_Fire_Reform_Collaborative_Working_update_JPMaAppendices.pdf</p>

	<p>Corporate Plan 2015 to 2020 http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/6315/2508/4373/2015-20_Corporate_Plan_Refresh_-_July_2017.pdf</p> <p>Report to the Fire Authority held 14 December 2016; Fire Reform – Collaboration Working Update: http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/9214/8068/6630/ITEM_13_FIRE_REFORM_-_COLLABORATIVE_WORKING_cover_report_14122016_CFA_Annexes.pdf</p> <p>Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group: National Overview 2016 https://aace.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/National-overview-v13-WEB.pdf</p> <p>Report to the Executive Committee held 29 July 2015; Property Sharing and Co-Location of Police and Fire and Rescue Services in the Thames Valley http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/5614/3740/2436/ITEM_12_Memorandum_of_Understanding_with_PCC_occ_rbfa_2_with_appendix.pdf</p> <p>Report to the Fire Authority held 10 June 2015; Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Royal Berkshire and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Services. http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/7314/5563/7856/ITEM_15_Memorandum_of_Understanding_with_Royal_Berkshire_and_Oxfordshire_Fire_and_Rescue_Services.compressed.pdf</p>
APPENDICES	Annex A: Emergency Services Collaboration in the Thames Valley – November 2018
TIME REQUIRED	15 minutes
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