

# West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

## Collaboration and Transformation Committee

**You are summoned to attend the meeting of Collaboration and Transformation Committee to be held on Monday, 12 December 2022 at 14:00**

**At Fire Service Headquarters, 99 Vauxhall Road, Nechells, Birmingham B7 4HW  
and digitally via Microsoft Teams**

**for the purpose of transacting the following business:**

### **Agenda – Public Session**

**Item No.**

<b>1</b>	<b>To receive apologies for absence (if any)</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of interests</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of the Previous Collaboration and Transformation Committee held on 05 September 2022</b>	<b>3 - 10</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Scrutiny Review of Safe and Wells</b>	<b>11 - 16</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Collaboration with Ambulance Services</b>	<b>17 - 20</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Collaboration and Transformation Committee CRMP Update</b>	<b>21 - 24</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>West Midlands Combined Authority - Trailblazing Devolution Deal</b>	<b>25 - 30</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Collaboration and Transformation Committee - Work Plan 2022-2023</b>	<b>31 - 34</b>

**Distribution:**

Gurdial Atwal - Member, Jasbinder Dehar - Chair of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee, Simon Foster - Police and Crime Commissioner, Peter Hogarth - Member, Zahir Hussain - Vice Chair of Collaboration and Transformation Committee, Zafar Iqbal - Member, Ian Kettle - Member, Gavin Lloyd - Member

This meeting of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority will be held at Fire Service Headquarters. However, please note that although the meeting will be open to the public, there will be limited capacity due to ongoing social distancing measures.

The meeting will also be held digitally via Microsoft Teams allowing observers to access remotely. To access the meeting, please contact a member of the Strategic Hub, West Midlands Fire Service, who will be able to provide login details (please note that Microsoft Teams is not required to join a meeting) or provide guidance if you wish to attend in person at HQ.

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**Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee**

**05 September 2022**

Conducted as a public meeting at Headquarters and digitally via  
Microsoft Teams

**Present:** Councillor Dehar (Chair), Councillor Hussain (Vice-Chair),  
Councillor Iqbal, Councillor Hogarth.

**Virtual:** Councillor Miks, Prof Simon Brake, APCC Wasim Ali

**Officers:** Mike Griffiths, Pete Wilson, Andrea Simmonds, Kash Singh  
Tom Embury, Kirsty Tuffin.

10/22 **To receive apologies for absence (if any)**

Apologies for absence were received from the Chief Fire  
Officer, Phil Loach and Councillor Ian Kettle.

11/22 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

12/22 **Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation  
Committee held on 18 July 2022**

Resolved:

1. That the Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation  
Committee held on 18 July 2022 were approved as a correct  
record of proceedings.

13/22 **Fire Reform White Paper - Consultation Responses**

Tom Embury, Deputy Clerk to the Authority presented the  
Fire Reform White Paper - Consultation Responses Report  
that provided an overview of the local and national  
responses to the Fire Reform White Paper.

The Committee were advised that following its approval at  
the last Collaboration and Transformation Committee, that  
took place on Monday 18 July 2022, the Authority had  
submitted their response on Tuesday 26 July 2022. A

response had been submitted on behalf of the operational leadership of the service, as per appendix A of the report, and had focused upon the operational perspective.

The Local Government Association (LGA) had been a similar to that of the Authorities supporting local decision making and the NJC. The LGA had raised concerns that had not been covered within the White Paper in their response, as outlined within the report. As with the LGA, the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) who represented Senior Officers, welcomed the intent of the White Paper and the importance of a Sector led Fit for the Future Project. They strongly supported the need for increased flexibility and a reform of the current pay negotiation processes.

The Committee were advised that the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) had opposed most of the proposals within the White Paper and had expressed disappointment with the proposal for increased powers to the Chief Fire Officer.

The response from Andy Street, West Midlands Mayor, had provided support for a single elected official having responsibility for the governance of the service and supported operational independence of the Chief Fire Officer. The full response had been attached as appendix B to the report.

Councillor Hogarth expressed that the majority of the responses both locally and nationally had overall agreement on the views expressed in their responses to the proposals. He acknowledged that some changes were needed but not to the scope in which the White Paper had proposed.

Resolved:

1. That it be agreed that the Fire Reform White Paper Consultation Responses from other key stakeholders be noted.

14/22

## **Progress Update Reducing Health Inequalities CRMP Project**

Pete Wilson, Strategic Lead – Prevention, presented the Reducing Health Inequalities Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) Project report that outlined the progress made in delivering the tasks and intended outcomes of the Reducing Health Inequalities CRMP project.

The Committee were advised that following the CRMP, reducing health inequalities had been one of six projects. The project had included several activities with a long-term approach to be taken. The four main areas of focus had been people, digital, data and partnerships and collaboration.

The Committee were advised that surveys had/would be circulated to those who have had a Safe and Well (SAW) visit to question their experience via letters and digitally. So far, the responses had been positive and indicated that the SAW had improved people's health, wellbeing, quality of life and therefore, reducing their vulnerability to fires. Some of the key data from the surveys highlighted were:

- 95% of those who smoked from the 2,278 respondents said they had a greater understanding of the risks of smoking
- Of those that smoked, 145 were referred to stop smoking services, with 60 (41%) of those referred stopped smoking.

The Committee were advised that the service had developed membership arrangements for SAW to support a collaborative approach to data sharing and two-way referrals between the service and its partners. 5 partners had signed up and would assist in identifying the most vulnerable in the community.

Following questions on the use of the new online home fire safety check, that would be available on the services website, Kash Singh, Strategic Enabler of ICT Digital and Data, advised the Committee that the website had the option to change the language via a drop-down list. The

involvement of Cllrs involvement in these projects would be hugely beneficial and provided a link into the local authority's/their chief executives. Following queries on the engagement of 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations, Pete Wilson advised the Committee that a vital piece of the work had been to work with groups such as religious groups and build partnerships where possible. He advised that if Members had any groups that they wished the services to make contact with them to let him know. It was agreed that S41 Members would highlight this with their Local Authorities.

Resolved:

1. That the progress being made in delivering the reducing health inequalities CRMP project, be noted.
2. That it be agreed that S41 Members would highlight the partnership work of SAW with their Local Authorities.

15/22

### **Digital, Data and Innovation Update**

Kash Singh, Strategic Enabler of ICT Digital and Data, presented the Digital, Data and Innovation report that outlined the progress made aligned with the Digital, Data and Innovation Strategy.

The Committee were advised that the Digital, Data and Innovation Strategy had been introduced in December 2021 and steps had been taken to ensure it has been fully embedded within the service including a Digital Leadership Skills course for Middle Managers. The overall strategy had focused upon people first and used technology to improve performance and efficiency and service to the community. Emphasis was given on the need to not exclude members of the community and collaboration inclusion work with the West Midlands Combined Authority had been underway.

The Committee were advised that the West Midlands were 5g and used this as an opportunity to work with partners to gather information to reduce risks. Collaboration work with CCTV, National Police Air Service Cameras and data collection from sensors were examples highlighted.

Work had been underway to ensure that stations had handheld devices to ensure they had the opportunity to go

into the community and be involved/front facing as much as possible. There had been a slight impact with supply due to the part shortages experienced nationally but the service had been on track in its delivery of this. Emphasis was given on the need for cyber security to be incorporated into all aspects of systems therefore, investments had been focused upon this area to ensure the service had the reassurance needed.

Resolved:

1. That the embedding of digital ways of working across the service and acknowledgement of investment in staff to understand and support digital, data and innovation be noted.
2. That the ongoing developments and progress from continued phases of Oracle Cloud, CRMP projects, Digital Transformation on stations be noted. That the introduction of new projects around incident command transformation and legacy systems aligned to the feedback from staff and the next steps outlined in previous Collaboration and Transformation Committee report, be noted.
3. That the emerging opportunities for collaboration with new partner brigades to deliver better, more efficient services to our communities and reduce risk nationally be noted.

16/22

### **Inclusion and Diversity – Innovation in firefighting equipment**

Tom Embury, Deputy Clerk to the Authority provided a verbal update regarding the Inclusion and Diversity – Innovation in firefighting equipment in particular the use of BA equipment and facial hair.

The Committee were advised that further written reports would be provided in future meetings to provide updates to the Committee on this on-going issue. The use of facial hair and BA equipment had still been restricted due to safety requirements and no major companies had developed a mask that passed all the safety test requirements. A future procurement would reflect a want for more research into the development of these masks that would allow staff to have

facial hair. However, in the meantime the service had been looking into the option of facial hair being permitted for non-BA roles within the service from both a policy and a cultural perspective. Although the current policy did not prevent facial hair, the policy needed to be clearer, and staff needed to be informed further. The policy would be looked into and consultation on it would begin the end of the year.

Resolved:

1. That the verbal update on the Inclusion and Diversity – Innovation in firefighting equipment in particular the use of BA equipment and facial hair be noted.

17/22

### **Draft Collaboration and Transformation Committee Work Programme 2022-2023**

Tom Embury, Deputy Clerk to the Authority presented the Draft Collaboration and Transformation Committee Work Programme that outlined the planned agenda items for the Committee 2022-2023.

The Committee were advised that the White Paper and the HMICFRS updates had been time dependent upon their publication by Government. Councillors emphasised the need for progress to be made with the Ambulance / Fire Service collaboration.

Resolved:

1. That the draft Collaboration and Transformation Committee Work Programme 2022-2023 be approved.

18/22

### **Any other business**

The Chair of the Committee advised that she wished to help raise money for the Fire Fighters Charity and wished to have an event focusing upon cultural diversity. Councillors raised concerns around using external venues/potential costs associated and it would be beneficial for local authorities to assist with potential venue options. It was agreed that Tom Embury would link Councillor Dehar with the services officer co-ordinating events with the Fire Fighters Charity to assist with potential links to already on-going fund-raising events.



Resolved:

1. That it be agreed that Tom Embury would link Councillor Dehar with the services officer co-ordinating events with the Fire Fighters Charity to assist with potential links to already on-going fund-raising events.

19/22

**Date of the next meeting**

Resolved:

1. That the date of the next meeting scheduled to take place on Monday 12 December 2022, be noted.

The meeting finished at 11:23 hours.

Kirsty Tuffin Strategic Hub 0121 380 6906
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**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Collaboration and Transformation Committee**

**12 December 2022**

**1. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SAFE AND WELL**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Committee notes the learning and recommendations from the recent Scrutiny Review of Safe & Well (SAW).

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 To highlight to the Committee four specific recommendations that are key to improving collaboration internally between teams and externally with partners and those which will contribute to the transformation of the delivery of SAW.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The review was included on the Scrutiny Committee workplan following the withdrawal from the Falls Response contracts in Coventry, Dudley, and Wolverhampton in 2018 over concerns about the impact that this might have had on referrals for SAW for those who receive Telecare support from the three local authorities.
- 3.2. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the review was delayed until February 2022, when a draft proposal was taken to Scrutiny Committee for the scope and purpose for the Scrutiny Review of SAW. The proposal was finalised, and the methodology agreed and signed off at Scrutiny Committee in May 2022.
- 3.3 Officers sought to provide assurance to Scrutiny Committee that the withdrawal from the Falls Response contracts had not excluded Telecare service users from accessing SAW.

- 3.4 Officers were able to confirm that the three Telecare providers for whom WMFS managed the Falls Response contracts, have referred 498 service users for SAW between November 2021 and November 2022, with an average risk score of between 9.37 and 10.36 confirming that Telecare customers are at high risk and vulnerability to fire.

Therefore, the scope and purpose of the review was widened so that it covered the effectiveness and efficiency of SAW more broadly, to include:

- risk stratification including referrals and relationships with partners
- record keeping
- delivery including training and development,
- performance management, quality assurance and evaluation

- 3.5 Stakeholders from across the organisation were invited to participate and contribute to the review, the learning from created 10 recommendations.

Detailed below are the four recommendations particularly relevant for Collaboration and Transformation Committee:

**3.5.1 Recommendation 1** *Continue to develop and implement the Tymly system and supporting automated business processes*

This will innovate the efficiency of delivery of tasks within SAW, such as automation of administration, communication, feedback, and service user evaluation tasks, enabling personnel to focus on the delivery of SAW and engagement with those most at risk and vulnerable to fire. It will enable risk information to be collected and analysed for the first time at an individual, built environment and household level as currently we can only collect this at a household level. The implementation of Tymly will enable WMFS to clearly demonstrate the impact of SAW on reducing risk and vulnerability to fire and improving health, wellbeing, and quality of life. For this reason, this work is being managed through the CRMP Reducing Health Inequalities 3PT project.

**3.5.2 Recommendation 5** *Continue with the implementation of Remote SAW (RSAW) as a means of providing SAW to those who are identified as low risk at the point of referral. Ensuring that there is*

*a clear escalation process to SAW where risk identified at RSAW requires this.*

Learning from business continuity arrangements during the COVID pandemic when the majority of SAW had to be delivered remotely by telephone, the review identified that WMFS should continue with the implementation of RSAW as a means of providing SAW to those who are identified as low risk at the point of referral as a 'business as usual' intervention. This means that the Service will have a suite of interventions for SAW that are proportionate to the risk referred and can prioritise face to face home visits for those whom the CRMP identifies as being most at risk and vulnerable to fire.

**3.5.3 Recommendation 9** *To support the provision of a consistent and national approach to SAW and continue to implement the 8 core components of the NFCC Person Centred Framework for Home Fire Safety Visits including the:*

- *standardised data set*
- *training package*
- *evaluation framework*

The adoption of the National Fire Chiefs' Council (NFCC) Person Centred Framework for Home Fire Safety Visits is integral to the implementation and use of Tymly. It will support the development of a national body of evidence to demonstrate the impact of SAW on reducing risk and vulnerability to fire and improving health, wellbeing, and quality of life.

**3.5.4 Recommendation 10** *Continue to develop the SAW Membership arrangements and onboard partners who work with service users that the CRMP identifies as being at risk and vulnerable to fire.*

In line with the Prevention objective in 'The Plan' 'to collaborate and work in partnership with other organisations to reduce risk and vulnerability to fires', the review recommended the strengthening of information sharing between WMFS and partner agencies whose service users are most at risk and vulnerable to fire to reach more of the community of the West Midlands for SAW through 'membership arrangements'.

Continuing to develop the arrangements and onboard partners will support the service to develop strong partnerships with colleagues in and partner organisations across all sectors to help us to identify and support people who are at higher risk from fires with SAW. This will be done through strengthening information governance arrangements, enabling the transformation of performance management of referrals and the creation of new approaches to data sharing between partners and to the management of risk of those referred for SAW between WMFS and referring partners.

- 3.6 The full report presented to Scrutiny Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> November which outlines all the learning and presents the 10 recommendations, can be found in paragraph 7 of this report.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment not required and has not been carried out. The matters contained in this report do not currently relate to a policy change. Initial Equality Impact Assessment(s) will be completed for changes to policy, process or practice resulting from the implementation of the recommendations from the review.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no known legal implications arising from this report.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

The implementation of the OHFSV and RSAW will reduce the number of vehicle movements and will therefore contribute to the reduction of emissions.

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Scrutiny Committee Report, Safe and Wells, 7 November 2022](#)

The contact for this report is Pete Wilson, Strategic Lead for Prevention, telephone number 07973 810262





**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**  
**COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE**

**12 DECEMBER 2022**

**1. COLLABORATION WITH AMBULANCE SERVICES**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

**RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 THAT Members note the current state of collaboration between West Midlands Fire Service and West Midlands Ambulance Service.
- 1.2 THAT Members note examples of collaboration by other FRS with Ambulance Services in England.
- 1.3 THAT Members consider the role the Authority could play in supporting or encouraging further collaboration between the services.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 To inform members of current collaboration arrangements with West Midlands Ambulance Service and other FRS/Ambulance Collaboration arrangements across England.
- 2.2 To instigate discussion on actions the committee could take to drive forward further collaboration between blue light services.

**3. EMERGENCY SERVICE COLLABORATION - BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 All three emergency services (Ambulance, Fire and Police) have a duty to collaborate under the Policing and Crime Act 2017. This duty requires all services to “keep under consideration” whether entering into a collaboration agreement with one or more other emergency services could be in the interests of efficiency or effectiveness.

- 3.2 However, it is only a requirement to consider collaboration, not a requirement to do it, and services do not have to enter into an agreement where they are of the view that it would impact negatively on public safety or their own efficiency or effectiveness.

#### 4. **WMFS AND WEST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE COLLABORATION**

- 4.1 West Midlands Fire Service and West Midlands Ambulance (and indeed West Midlands Police) have long collaborated on operational matters, ensuring services can work together effectively at incidents. A recent example being [new downlink technology](#) giving both fire and ambulance access to National Police Air Service aerial footage at incidents.
- 4.2 In the case of major or complex incidents, services follow the principles outlined by the [Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles \(JESIP\)](#). The services train together regularly to prepare for major incidents, including for [major events such as the Commonwealth Games](#).
- 4.3 There has also been some limited collaboration around shared estate with West Midlands Ambulance, in particular since their move toward a “Hub-and-Spoke” model that saw them reduce the number of ambulance stations and replace them with larger hubs. This originally saw a number of ambulances and other vehicles based on WMFS stations, but these have reduced to just first responder vehicles based at Solihull and Bournbrook. This has occurred in part due to WMAS’s efforts to reduce rental costs.
- 4.4 In terms of co-responding or other more direct operational support to WMAS in delivery of its response to medical emergencies there has been little interest. WMAS do not have co-responding in place with any of the five FRS in their service area.

#### 5. **COLLABORATION BETWEEN FRS AND AMBULANCE ELSEWHERE**

- 5.1 While collaboration between ambulance and fire is limited in the West Midlands, there are numerous examples from elsewhere in the country, with some arrangements in place for a number of years.

## 5.2 **Shared Estates**

- 5.2.1 Co-location has been introduced by a number of emergency services, which sees ambulances (and/or police) based on Fire Stations. As most FRS have a fairly significant spread of sites, especially in rural areas, this has proven useful while reducing costs for other blue light services.
- 5.2.2 On some occasions this includes developing specific Co-located or even Tri-service facilities designed to cater for all three services (rather than making use of existing FRS estate). Examples include [Coalville in Leicestershire](#), [Hungerford](#) and [Theale in Berkshire](#) and the “[Blue Light Campus](#)” in Lincolnshire which will host an Ambulance service “hub”, rather than being a “spoke” site.

## 5.3 **Co-responding/First Responding**

- 5.3.1 A number of FRS operate Co-Responding or First Responder schemes whereby fire and rescue service staff respond to the highest risk medical incidents to provide support until paramedics can arrive. These take a range of different forms depending on the level of training provided to FRS staff. In the [Thames Valley and Hampshire area](#), Co-Responding FRS staff work alongside Police and Community Co-Responders to support South Central Ambulance service, having responded to over 5,400 calls. [In the South West](#), alongside driving duties introduced in the pandemic firefighters from five services have acted as co-responders alongside ambulance colleagues.
- 5.3.2 Cornwall are the first FRS to introduce [Tri-Service safety officers](#), which sees one person trained as a retained firefighter, community co-responder and in neighbourhood policing. This is intended to truly integrate not only response but community prevention/intervention activity.
- 5.3.3 [COVID Driving](#) – During the COVID Pandemic, some FRS provided support by driving ambulances to cope with additional demand. Across the country firefighter drivers responded to over 100,000 incidents.
- 5.3.4 Historical opposition to Co-Responding/First Responding by the Fire Brigades’ Union [ended in 2015](#). Arrangements must still, in the FBU’s view, be negotiated nationally through the NJC, and

would need to address concerns about issues such as policy, training and liability, but the FBU is no longer opposed to such schemes as a matter of policy.

6. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

There are no specific equalities impacts as a result of this paper or recommendations.

7. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

As mentioned above, West Midlands Fire Service is subject to a legal duty to consider collaboration with other emergency services. It is the role of the committee, as defined by its Terms of Reference to “support the Fire Authority’s role and responsibility with regards to: The strategic development and assurance of transformational collaborative working agreements (up to implementation) aligned to the ‘Duty to Collaborate’ within the Policing and Crime Act 2017.”

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications from information provided within this report.

9. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental implications from information provided within this report.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- [Policing and Crime Act 2017](#)
- [ESCWG – Duty to Collaboration Information and Support Document](#)

The contact for this report is Tom Embury, Deputy Clerk to the Authority.

PHIL LOACH  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**  
**COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE**  
**12 DECEMBER 2022**

1. **COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE**  
**CRMP UPDATE**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the detail of this report is noted.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 To update the Collaboration and Transformation Committee on relevant updates in relation to the relevant Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) projects.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The National Framework for Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) in England 2018 sets the requirement for the development and implementation of a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) which identifies and assesses risk within the FRS area. This report will provide an update on the relevant CRMP projects.

3.2 **Risk Based Crewing**

- 3.2.1 Following a review of our CRMP and public consultation undertaken throughout 2020 the Fire Authority approved the development of a number of CRMP proposals in February 2021. One of these proposals was Risk Based Crewing (RBC), which involves a flexible staffing approach, enabling a number of different people to be mobilised on a number of resources, to enable a more proportionate response to risk. RBC aims to empower Fire Control and operational officers to make risk-based decisions regarding the right level of resources to mobilise based on

knowledge, experience and professional judgement which builds on the successful dynamic mobilising principles.

- 3.2.2 Risk Based Crewing has been rolled out across all 11 core BRV stations and has transitioned into business as usual, supporting a more proportionate response to incidents. Evaluation of the project has seen a 60% increase in BRV availability. A BRV has been mobilised with two personnel 32% of times and 84% of all secondary incidents have been attended by a BRV enabling a more proportionate response to low-risk incidents, aligned to risk.
- 3.2.3 During the extreme heat experienced this summer, RBC enabled us to flexibly use our resources and effectively manage the significant increase in demand and spate conditions. As an example, during a peak period of spate conditions, the Dynamic Cover Tool which displays live resources across the West Midlands, showed 13 PRL and four BRV available due to all other resources being committed at incidents. If we consider how this may have looked pre-RBC, it is likely there would have been an additional six BRV pre-stated off the run as part of our flexible resource planning. This therefore demonstrates the value RBC is adding through increased fleet availability as well as more proportionate resource to risk mobilisation.
- 3.2.4 There is ongoing consideration and engagement with further locations regarding the RBC concept. There will be continued monitoring and evaluation of the RBC project to understand where future transformation and benefit may be realised.

### 3.3 **Prevent Duty**

- 3.3.1 The Prevent strategy was first published by the Government in 2011 and is part of the overall counter-terrorism strategy. The prevent strategy aims to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism, by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorists. As part of the West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) CRMP Emerging Risks project, a focus area includes the Prevent Strategy which involves upskilling WMFS staff to identify radicalisation of vulnerable people in our community and how to signpost.

- 3.3.2 Prevent work depends on effective partnership. To demonstrate effective compliance with the duty, specified authorities must demonstrate evidence of productive co-operation, in particular with local Prevent co-ordinators, the police and local authorities, and co-ordination through existing multi-agency forums, for example Community Safety Partnerships.
- 3.3.3 West Midlands Police Counter Terrorism Unit (WMP CTU) and the West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) Prevent representative have been developing training sessions for WMFS staff that will enable uniformed and non-uniformed staff to recognise and refer concerns related to extremism - under the remit of safeguarding.
- 3.3.4 This training will be localised in order to highlight current trends and ensure the training is relevant and appropriate for all staff. The training will take place via Teams and is scheduled between January to February 2023.
- 3.3.5 Alongside West Midlands Police, WMFS also attend the local Prevent Delivery Group and Prevent Regional meetings to promote our training proposal, seek best practice and to work with local authorities around the Prevent theme.

#### 4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report, an Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out. The updates contained within this report will not lead to policy change but will provide an update on relevant CRMP projects.

#### 5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

As set out in section 3.1, The National Framework for Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) in England 2018, sets the requirement for the development and implementation of a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). The government has a duty under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to produce the framework and keep it current. Fire and rescue authorities must have regard to the framework in carrying out their duties.

## 6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Risk Based Crewing is anticipated to achieve annual savings of approximately £2.2 million, which contributes towards the agreed £3.8 million of in-year budget savings, previously managed through the flexible fleet management approach through the Chief Fire Officer pre-stating appliances off the run.

## 7. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

In preparing this report, an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- [Fire and Rescue National Framework for England \(2018\)](#)
- [Fire Authority Report, February 2021](#)
- [Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales](#)

The contact for this report is Richard Stanton,  
[richard.stanton@wmfs.net](mailto:richard.stanton@wmfs.net).

Phil Loach  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Collaboration and Transformation Committee**

**12 December 2022**

**1. West Midlands Combined Authority – Trailblazing Devolution Deal**

Report of the Clerk to the Authority

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1. THAT members note the current progress of the West Midlands Trailblazing Devolution Deal and the potential implications or opportunities for West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS).
- 1.2. THAT members consider how the Collaboration and Transformation Committee membership could facilitate great WMFS involvement in relevant aspects of the Trailblazing Devolution Deal as it is developed and implemented.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1. To provide members with the background to detail of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Trailblazing Devolution Deal as it currently stands.
- 2.2. To encourage discussion between Collaboration and Transformation Committee members on the opportunities presented by the Devolution Deal to the Fire Service and our vision of making the West Midlands Safer, Stronger and Healthier.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The Government's February 2022 Levelling Up White Paper promised as part of its commitment to "Deepening Devolution" that it would open negotiations with West Midlands and Greater Manchester Combined Authorities over "Trailblazer" devolution deals designed to provide a blueprint for other combined

authorities.

- 3.2. These deals were designed to cover almost any area, with the two authorities invited to make suggestions for areas where government powers or funding could be devolved to either the Combined Authority or its constituent local authorities. Government also wanted to explore options to streamline Combined Authority funding.
- 3.3. Although Fire and Rescue Services are not specifically included within the scope of the deals, the wide range of areas they cover (see below) offer opportunities for FRS involvement and are likely to have direct impact on our work, including existing collaborations with local authorities.
- 3.4. West Midlands Combined Authority has been developing its devolution “asks” since early Spring 2022 in collaboration with a range of regional partners. In October 2022, the Combined Authority published a Levelling Up Growth Prospectus that outlined the overarching ambition of the Devolution Deal to “Level Up” the region through three broad workstreams:
  - Going Further and Faster – on drivers of growth that are already devolved to the Combined Authority in areas such as transport, housing and skills.
  - Rebooting the Economy – gaining new economic powers to help the region recover from the pandemic and unlock the region’s potential as “the engine room of the UK’s green industrial revolution”.
  - Public Services and Price in Place – help residents feel happy, healthy, well connected and safe while also feeling proud of where they live.
- 3.5. In total there are 16 devolution proposals, although there is no specific priority given to any particular proposal. Unlike previous devolution deals or situations where there are single pots of money from which to bid, the TDD proposals are being negotiated separately with relevant Government departments.
- 3.6. The devolution proposals have been developed according to a set of principles established by the WMCA Board in March 2022. This

includes clarity about the ‘local benefit’ of the proposals and that power should be drawn down from government and not ‘sucked up’ from the local level.

#### **4. TRAILBLAZING DEVOLUTION DEAL WORKSTREAMS MOST RELEVANT TO WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE**

- 4.1. In reality, every one of the 16 devolution proposals would have relevance to West Midlands Fire Service, but there are some which are either most relevant or present the greatest opportunities for influence. **It should be noted that none of these proposals are yet accepted and are still to be agreed by both the WMCA and Government departments.**

#### **4.2. Transport**

This is a significant part of the deal and one where the CA already had significant devolved powers. The UK Government is committed to delivering “London-style” public transport across the UK. Amongst a wide range of proposals are numerous elements relevant to WMFS either in terms of our road and community safety role, or new and emerging risks that we may need to respond to:

- Creating a “Transport Regulatory Sandbox” to introduce greater innovation and flexibility in transport solutions, including experimental new vehicle types including automated vehicles, increased use of drones, more digital dynamic traffic management and greater data sharing on public transport and traffic.
- Decarbonising transport by electrifying transport infrastructure including freight.
- Changing transport behaviours including making use of speeding enforcement fines with local authorities to provide road safety infrastructure and introduce greater pavement parking enforcement powers.

#### **4.3 Housing, Property and Regeneration**

Again, building on existing powers, the proposals would see the region gain new powers and funding to deliver additional affordable housing, land reform and regenerating town centres and neighbourhoods. New housing will bring changing risks and

challenges around fire service provision, but there will also be opportunities for to be involved in improving poor quality housing and buildings which are higher risk for fire and ensure new buildings are resilient and safe.

#### **4.4 Crime, community safety and resilience**

[This proposal](#) focuses mostly on crime and criminal justice, despite the broader subject heading around community safety and resilience. It has been developed in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. It plans for a greater role for the PCC in criminal justice, including involvement in senior level appointments, powers to “call in” decisions and retention of various fines and profits from crime to spend on local priorities.

Powers and funding to intervene with young people to prevent violence and break the cycle of criminality will include diversionary interventions – this could extend to WMFS programmes such as cadets.

It may be that this area will develop further and could include areas such as the Local Resilience Forum – including potentially a greater role for the Mayor in its functioning.

#### **4.5 Climate Adaptation and the Natural Environment**

WMCA are already committed to making the West Midlands the first “Net Zero Region” with an ambitious 2041 Net Zero target. WMFS will clearly have a role to play in delivering this. Proposals under this stream include:

- 4.5.1 Working with the LRF to reduce community vulnerability to extreme weather events – which can both improve community safety and support our response to these events.
- 4.5.2 Securing funding to retrofit homes to improve energy efficiency
- 4.5.3 Establish the West Midlands as a ‘Pathfinder’ for Regional Adaptation Plans, bringing together government departments, local authorities, resilience forums, universities, and communities.

## 4.6 Health Inequalities

The devolution proposals include specific [plans around health inequality](#), which links closely to WMFS's own work on Reducing Health Inequalities as part of our CRMP. The WMCS plans to deliver this both through health interventions and areas such as employment and housing quality. Specific proposals include the development of a "Radical Health Prevention Fund" to unlock innovative, digital approaches to health prevention – which may present opportunities for WMFS prevention work.

## 4.7 Homelessness

[The proposals around homelessness prevention](#) include proposals to address and improve exempt accommodation, which will give local authorities more powers in enforcement and licensing to tackle rogue landlords who are putting vulnerable people at risk, including from fire.

## 5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No initial Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken as this paper does not relate to policy change. However, there may be a requirement to undertake EIAs in relation to specific workstreams within the TDD which WMFS becomes involved in.

## 6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no matters within this paper that need to be brought to the attention of the Monitoring Officer.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications at this point from either the Trailblazing Devolution Deal or West Midlands Fire Service's engagement with it. However, there may be funding opportunities as a result of individual TDD workstreams, which will need to be considered individually.

## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The WMCA have a target of Net Zero for the West Midlands Region by 2041. The proposals under the "Climate Adaptation and

the Natural Environment” may have significant environmental implications.

## 9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- [Levelling Up the United Kingdom – Government White Paper](#)
- [WMCA Levelling Up Prospectus](#)

The contact for this report is Tom Embury, Deputy Clerk to the Authority

KAREN GOWREESUNKER  
CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY

# WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

## Collaboration and Transformation Committee

### WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

Date of Meeting	Item	Responsible Officer	Completed
<b>2022</b>			
5 Sept 2022	White Paper Consultation – Briefing on other responses	Deputy Clerk to the Authority	5 September 2022
	Digital Transformation Update	Strategic Enabler - ICT Digital & Data	5 September 2022
	CRMP - Health Inequalities Update	Strategic Lead for Prevention	5 September 2022
	Inclusion and Diversity – Innovation in firefighting equipment - Verbal Update	Deputy Clerk to the Authority	5 September 2022
	Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee held on 25 April 2022	Democratic Services Officer	5 September 2022
	Collaboration and Transformation Committee Work Plan 2022/23	Democratic Services Officer	5 September 2022

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12 December 2022	*White Paper – Government Consultation Response	Deputy Clerk to the Authority	Deferred.
	Scrutiny Committee Inquiry – Safe and Wells	TBD	12 December 2022
	CRMP 2022 – Update/Outcomes/Health Check	CRMP Manager	12 December 2022
	Blue Light Collaboration – Ambulance	TBD	12 December 2022
	*HMICFRS Inspection Findings re Collaboration and Transformation	TBD	Deferred.
	Trailblazing Devolution Deal - WMCA	Deputy Clerk to the Authority	12 December 2022
	Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee held on 5 September 2022	Democratic Services Officer	12 December 2022

2023			
27 February 2023	*White Paper – Government Consultation Response	Deputy Clerk to the Authority	
	Serious Violence Duty – Update and Impact	Deputy Clerk to the Authority/Strategic Lead for Prevention	
	CRMP 2023 Consultation and Engagement	CRMP Manager	

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	ESG Approach – Environmental Sustainability Strategy	Strategic Lead for Innovation	
	Careers engagement with Schools	TBD	
	Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee held on 12 December 2022	Democratic Services Officer	
15 May 2023	CRMP 2023 Consultation Outcomes	CRMP Manager	
	Digital Transformation Update	Strategic Enabler of ICT Digital and Data	
	Flexible and Agile working impacts on the service	People Support Services	
	Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee held on 27 February 2023	Democratic Services Officer	
	Collaboration and Transformation Committee Work Plan 2023/24	Democratic Services Officer	

\*Depending upon Government/HMICFRS publishing timelines

