

Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee

27 February 2023

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

Present: Councillor Dehar (Chair), Councillor Hussain (Vice-Chair), Councillor Atwal, Councillor Barrie and Prof Simon Brake.

Virtual: Councillor Miks and Councillor Kettle.

Officers: Wayne Brown, Darryll Darkin, Tom Embury, Mike Griffiths, Sophie Lee and Mark Price.

01/23 **To receive apologies for absence (if any)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hogarth, substituted by Councillor Barrie and Councillor Lloyd, substituted by Cllr Miks and Councillor Iqbal.

02/23 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

03/23 **Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee held on 12 December 2022**

Resolved:

1. That the Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee held on 12 December 2022 were approved as a correct record of proceedings.

04/23 **HMICFRS Inspection Report – Collaboration and Transformation**

Tom Embury, Deputy Clerk to the Authority, presented the HMICFRS Inspection Report – Collaboration and Transformation report that outlined the key findings from the HMICFRS Inspection report, specifically related to collaboration and transformation. The report focused upon three main areas: effectiveness, efficiency and people.

The Committee were advised that overall, the view on collaboration and transformation within the inspection report had been positive. The service was rated outstanding rating for the following areas:

- effectiveness,
- understanding fire and other risks and
- responding to fires and emergencies.

All other categories, as per the report, had been rated as 'Good'.

Members welcomed the report and emphasised the importance to continue pushing for further improvements where possible.

Following Prof Simon Brakes comments on an action plan for further improvements, Wayne Brown, Chief Fire Officer, he reassured Members that the service would continue to review outcomes from HMIC inspection at both the West Midlands level and from a sector wide perspective. A gap analysis would be conducted against other Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) which would then form an action plan. This would include a focus from a collaboration and transformation perspective and there would be further reports to both Full authority and the Collaboration and Transformation Committee.

Resolved:

1. That it be agreed that the findings of the 2021/22 HMICFRS inspection report, in relation to collaboration and transformation be noted.

05/23

Environmental, Social and Governance Framework

Mark Price, Group Commander – Innovation, Sustainability and Oracle, presented the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Framework report that outlined the development of the Service's ESG framework and recent partnership working.

The Committee were advised that the service had created an ESG Framework which focused on sustainability from an

environmental, social and governance perspective. Real focus had been placed on collaboration work with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), relevant academic institutions and applicable to West Midlands community. This was a key topic, especially as HMICFRS were considering placing sustainability into their inspections moving forward.

Darryll Darkin, Station Commander – Innovation, advised the Committee that the ESG framework had been best suited to West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) of the various models for sustainability that existed. Developing partnerships had been a key part of the work, including branching out into academic circles and to the communities that the service served.

The service was looking to be the first UK Fire service to join the UN global compact, in which the Strategic Enabling Team (SET) were currently looking into. The Compact covers the following four key areas:

- environment anti-corruption,
- human rights, and
- labour standards.

Work was being conducted with the WMCA, which included adapting their “doughnut” approach and looking at how the service could join in with their sustainability initiatives.

The service was trialling a “warm spaces” initiative to help communities through the energy crisis. This would form part of a wider look at how the service use spaces and infrastructure in the future for maximum benefit. They are currently being trialled at Foleshill and Ward end Fire Stations. Work had already been conducted to develop partnerships with Unity Hubb at Ward End Fire Station where they would be using the space twice a week with arts and crafts and other community activities.

The Committee were advised that Academic collaborations with Birmingham City University to look at the architecture and design of future fire stations was underway. This sought to determine how they could be more future proof. This included concepts of having charging facilities for devices,

community rooms that could be used by others. The service would also partner up with Birmingham School of Architecture and Design on a PHD programme. The Service had signed up to the European commission to allow them to accept research interns as part of the programme.

Following queries on apprenticeships and future work programmes for the projects, Members were advised that the service would be looking into internships with research students. A 12-month, three year and 10-year action plan would be developed on the projects. Work would be conducted with the programme team and the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Karen Gowreesunker, to develop this and complete a critical path timeline to achieve elements. This would include specific timelines relating to the UN compact agreement and it was anticipated that sustainability would form a key part of the services forthcoming public consultation.

Prof Simon Brake praised the report and was keen to see any KPIs related to this to ensure areas of improvement could be monitored and the finalised academic programme.

Resolved:

1. That the content of the update report on the services Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Framework and related collaboration, be noted.

06/23

Serious Violence Duty

Tom Embury presented the Serious Violence Duty report that outlined the new Serious Violence Duty and the implication for West Midlands Fire Service.

The Committee were advised that the Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Act added a duty on local bodies to develop a strategy to prevent serious violence. Health boards, Police, FRS, Local Authorities, and other local bodies like education were involved. The aim was to create a multi-agency approach to tackling serious violence. The Duty came into effect from 31 January 2023.

In the West Midlands, the duty would be met at a regional level through the Violence Reduction Partnership, which operated on the WMFS and West Midlands Police footprint. However, each local authority would also develop a specific “problem profile” through their Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Moving forward the service would engage with each of these partnerships.

The Committee were advised that the Home Office had the following three key targets for the duty:

1. reducing Knife crime,
2. reducing homicides and
3. reducing Hospital admissions from knife crime.

Therefore, this had formed the main agreed focus for the West Midlands serious violence strategy, although it had been noted that violent crime could be defined more widely to include areas such as domestic abuse or arson.

A small amount of funding had been provided to support the work, distributed by the OPCC. There were implications for WMFS with resourcing each of the CSP subgroups and developing local profiles, developing key targets and with the strategy by Jan 2024. There were also issues highlighted that represent a risk to the FRS. The service had a good level of trust, access to the community and had diversionary activities such as cadets, but the service had been cautious about using that trust for activity which require necessary skills for (e.g., gang issues) and could have an impact on the level of trust with some communities.

The Chair of the Committee thanked officers for the report and highlighted the background papers that are available for further background.

Resolved:

1. That the content of this report regarding the implementation of the new Serious Violence Duty be noted.

07/23

Careers Engagement with Schools

Tom Embury provided a verbal update on the services career engagement with schools.

The Committee were advised that the service did not have specific career engagement with schools. Ad Hoc work was done with local schools and colleges at their request, but full engagement had not been done in a comprehensive way. However, there was a plan to engage more consistently with local colleges with specific public service courses.

Following queries on apprenticeships with young people, it was agreed that Tom Embury would speak with the relevant teams and an updated would be provided at a future meeting.

Resolved:

1. That it be agreed that the verbal update on career engagement with schools be noted.
2. That it be agreed that Tom Embury would discuss the approach with apprenticeships with the relevant teams and provide an update at a future meeting.

08/23

Collaboration and Transformation Committee Work Programme 2022-2023

Tom Embury presented the Collaboration and Transformation Committee Work Programme that outlined the planned agenda items for the Committee 2022-2023.

The Committee were advised that there had been no further updated from Central Government on the Reform White Paper. It was anticipated that this may not be received until May 2023. As per the work programme, CRMP Updates had been deferred until a future meeting. Additions had been added following the request of the Chair of the Committee for future agenda items.

Resolved:

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

09/23 **Any other business**

There was no further business raised.

10/23 **Date of the next meeting**

Resolved:

1. That the date of the next meeting, scheduled to take place on Monday 15 May, be noted.

The meeting finished at 11:01 hours.

Sophie Lee Portfolio 0121 380 6906
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