

Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee
04th September 2023

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

Present: Councillor Dehar (Chair), Councillor Kaur, Councillor Lloyd, Councillor Miks, Councillor Hogarth and Councillor Spence

Virtual: Prof Simon Brake.

Officers: Tom Embury, Sofia Mahmood, Jo Bowcock, Karen Gowreesunker and Chandni Patel

Please note: Councillor Miks attended as an observer.
Councillor Spence left at 10:47am. (Agenda Item 3)

10/23 **To receive apologies for absence (if any)**
Cllr Kettle

11/23 **Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest received.

12/23 **Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee held on 27 February 2023**
Resolved:
1. That the Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee held on 15th May 2023 were approved as a correct record of proceedings.

13/23 **Collaboration and Transformation Committee Areas of Focus 2023-24**

Cllr Dehar provided a brief introduction on what was to be discussed in this meeting.

Tom Embury presented the report relation to 3.1 Collaboration and Transformation Committee Terms of Reference. The additional items added are the quoracy of 3 members who eligible to vote and highlighting areas of focus around the committee.

Fig.1- Areas of Consideration for Collaboration and Transformation Committee Work Plan were discussed.

The Committee was advised that as CRMP projects are developed and involve more Collaboration and Transformation, it will be brought into this committee for discussion and moving forward will be a standard agenda item.

The Fire Reform item is subject to a government response and will focus on evaluation of the transformational and collaboration aspects of the Fire Reform Agenda from central government. Once the outcome has been received from the consultation process it will be brought into the committee for discussion.

It was anticipated that we may receive some form of update before summer recess, however this was not obtained.

Regarding Collaboration with Police Services and regional fire and rescue services there was a discussion last year regarding collaboration with ambulance and this matter was referred to the Scrutiny Committee.

This is assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the current collaboration.

Following queries emphasis was made on how effective the blue light services are when working together in the face of government. There are certain risks when services respond individually rather than collectively to certain matters and to include JESIP as part of the response.

A suggestion was made to rephrase one of the objectives of this year to reflect how we currently perform, looking at strategy and transformation and how we can continue to develop. This may deliver this committees business more effectively.

Resolved:

1. To include JESIP in the wider tri-service collaboration as an element for discussion in a future meeting.

It may also help to look at some of the individual elements of it on a service-by-service basis. This similarly applies to local authority collaboration and WMCA collaboration. There are some individual opportunities to look at specific pieces of collaboration.

In terms of Digital transformation, there are plans to provide updates to the committee which are already in the Workplan. Updates within Oracle and the training alongside be provided in future meetings.

Regarding the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Trailblazer Devolution Deal item, this was a topic that was discussed last year within this committee and has developed quite significantly since then. The devolution deal, published earlier in 2023, will see new powers and funding devolved to the West Midlands Combined Authority. The implication for a service will have grown so this may warrant revisiting.

Similarly, Local Authority collaboration will be assessing the strengths, weaknesses and further opportunities of WMFS collaboration with the seven constituent authorities of the West Midlands.

Regarding, Third/Community Sector collaboration we will continue to get updates in relation to our efforts around reducing health inequalities. This includes our Safe and Well home trials which should be moving forward this year.

Following concerns, Tom Embury advised that all Blue Light services are under same legal duties to collaborate as we are, however as they all have different priorities their actions are based on what is more effective for them.

Professor Simon Brake advised the Fire Service and the Police both sit under Home Office oversight which helps us to speak more freely with our Policing colleagues. There are many opportunities here to collaborate as we did during COVID-19.

Cllr Lloyd informed the committee that he attended the Coventry Scrutiny Board meeting. Doug Jones from West Midlands Fire Service and two operatives from the Ambulance Service and the NHS were also in attendance.

Cllr Lloyd suggested we could do look at joining the Scrutiny and Collaborations and Transformation together for a meeting focused on blue like collaboration. This is to include the Police and Ambulance Service.

Cllr Dehar advised this was discussed before and would be worth moving forward with this idea.

Simon Brake suggested it may be a good idea for Chief officers in advance of the meeting have a meeting of their own to ensure the session is most productive.

Resolved:

1. It was agreed to organise a combined meeting with Scrutiny and Collaboration and Transformation members. This is to include members from the Ambulance, Police and Fire Service.
2. It was agreed to arrange a meeting for the Chief officers ahead of the meeting scheduled with all the Blue light services.

Cllr Lloyd advised one of the concerns raised during a station visit was that there were a lot of different areas/boards.

Karen Gowreesunker advised that we can in terms of a formal route have different ways of communicating critical or risk critical information which is what they will need on a day-to-day basis if things change. Social Media platforms as well as Microsoft Teams are more for informal communication.

Tom Embury advised that this will be reviewed through the digital transformation element, however a breakdown of the operational and business as usual elements may be helpful.

Corporate Communications to provide an update on their communications plan moving forward.

14/23 **Collaboration and Transformation – Work Programme 2023-24**

Tom Embury presented the Work Plan and items to be discussed to in the coming committee meetings.

The Fire Authority white paper will also be presented when available.

No comments were provided on the work programme.

15/23 **Any other business**

Following queries, Tom advised that there will be a report being presented in the Members Engagement Forum later this month

which will highlight some of the results from the CRMP consultation.

Cllr Dehar thanked all the officers for their hard work and continuous support.

Date of the next meeting is on the 6th November 2023.

The meeting closed at 11.08am.

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