

# 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, 15 January 2024 at 10:30**

**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 6th November</b>  | <b>3 - 8</b>   |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Digital Data and Innovation</b>  | <b>9 - 16</b>  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Serious Violence Duty</b>  | <b>17 - 22</b> |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Local Authority Collaboration</b>  | <b>23 - 28</b> |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Work Programme 2023-2024</b>   | <b>29 - 32</b> |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Any other business</b><br>Discussion of any other business not on the agenda.  |                |
| <b>9</b> | <b>Date of next meeting</b><br>[To note the date of the next Collaboration and Transformation Committee scheduled to take place on Monday 8th April 2024] |                |

**Distribution:**

Gurdial Atwal - Vice Chair of Collaboration and Transformation Committee, Jasbinder Dehar - Chair of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee, Simon Foster - Police and Crime Commissioner, Peter Hogarth - Member, Parbinder Kaur - Member, Ian Kettle - Member, Gavin Lloyd - Member, Sybil Spence - Member

This meeting of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority will be held at Fire Service Headquarters.

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 Portfolio, 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.

Clerk Name:	Karen Gowreesunker
Clerk Telephone:	0121 380 6678
Clerk Email:	karen.gowreesunker@wmfs.net

**Agenda prepared by Chandni Patel**  
**Portfolio, West Midlands Fire Service**  
**Tel: 0121 380 6906 email: [Chandni.Patel@wmfs.net](mailto:Chandni.Patel@wmfs.net)**  
**This agenda and supporting documents are also available**  
**electronically on the**  
**[West Midlands Fire Service Committee Management Information](#)**  
**[System](#)**

**Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee**

**06<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Item 3

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

**Present:** Councillor Dehar (Chair), Councillor Lloyd, Councillor Hogarth, Councillor Spence, Prof Simon Brake

**Virtual:** Pete Wilson

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

**Please note:**

16/23 **To receive apologies for absence (if any)**  
Cllr Kettle and Cllr Kaur

17/23 **Declarations of Interest**  
There were no declarations of interest received.

18/23 **Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation  
Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Resolved:**

1. That the Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> September were approved as a correct record of proceedings.

19/23 **Progress Update Reducing Health Inequalities CRMP  
Project,**

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

Pete Wilson provided an update so far with delivering the tasks and intended outcomes of the Reducing Health Inequalities CRMP Project.

There is a significant overlap between the health inequalities and social determinants that cause reduced mortality and those that increase the risk and vulnerability to fire and other emergencies. The aim of the RHI project is to develop a

coordinated suite of Prevention activities, across the life course, that reduce health inequalities and therefore reduce risk and vulnerability to fire and other emergencies.

Regarding digital outcomes, the data from the surveys continue to indicate that Safe and Well (SAW) is improving people's health, wellbeing, and quality of life and reducing risk and vulnerability to fire. Many respondents who have received Safe & Wells have an understanding of the number of risks associated with smoking. 122 individuals said they stopped smoking from the input of a SAW visit.

The development of the Tymly system to record SAW visits and innovate business processes to support delivery has been a work in progress with the system being piloted in Black Country South Operations Command. At the start of lockdown in March 2020, this pilot was suspended to support business continuity arrangements.

The service has purchased Acorn geodemographic data. This data segments the UK's population. It segments postcodes and neighbourhoods into categories. It also provides health related data. Now that we have this data, we will be able to build a PowerBi dashboard and use incident and SAW data to identify at risk households for proactive contact.

The Partnership & Collaboration Outcomes are that: 'WMFS works effectively with partners across the wider health and social care sector to reduce health inequalities and the role of the fire service is valued by those partners'.

Following queries, Pete Wilson advised that the system does provide different languages to remove any language barriers.

Simon Brake suggested integrating with NHS and other blue light colleagues as we may be able to utilise their resources to tackle some of the issues we are presented with.

## **Resolved**

1. Pete Wilson and Simon Brake are to discuss how we use public service resources to work on the issues we are presented with.

Following queries Pete Wilson advised for those who cannot access online services, the phone line will be open. We have encouraged individuals or agencies to make referrals to any who require it.

## 20/23 **CRMP Consultation 2023 – Partner Outcomes**

Hannah Spencer presented the report and advised that its focus is on the collaboration and partner element of the consultation process.

The Overall partner engagement was positive. We had over 139 responses from partners.

We have identified areas of improvement regarding our stakeholder analysis. This includes neighbouring fire rescue services and some underrepresented groups which will be picked up in the debrief of this process.

Some representative bodies have provided feedback which will be considered in the next steps of the consultation.

It was positive to find most partners said they either 'Completely Trust' or 'Largely Trust' West Midlands Fire Service.

A debrief will be undertaken this month, this will identify good practice in terms of collaboration and transformation as well as any improvements.

Following queries Hannah Spencer advised we received responses from two religious' establishments. Karen Gowreesunker advised that the consultation will have been open to everyone, and this report reflects what we have received back.

Following queries, Hannah Spencer advised that as part of the evaluation, we can look to see if there are any barriers to responding to these requests.

There were some barriers to recruitment which were reflected in the report. IT was also explained that whilst we do not provide specific material for career fairs, we do get invites to career fairs and attend.

Professor Simon Brake spoke about the number of those interested and those who eventually apply are different. There is a drop in the number of those female individuals who apply.

Jo Bowcock advised that we do have low levels of interest regarding Women recruits which is reflected nationally. We do have a significant drop rate and we have collected some data as to why that is.

Visiting schools and approaching universities will help with this. A role in the Fire Service and/or as a Firefighter isn't spoken about in terms of having a career that should appeal to graduates.

Karen Gowreesunker advised that our Organisational Learning and Development (OLPD) team are focusing on our career development pathways so that they are understood and are more accessible to staff.

Tom Embury advised that there is a Scrutiny review of training and development which touches on a few of these areas. How we develop those who are in the service and how we retain those individuals.

Councillor Jas Dehar highlighted that West Midlands is the lead for the recruitment of BAME and thanked officers for all their hard work in ensuring we continue to strive for diversity.

## 21/23 **WMCA Trailblazer Devolution Deal**

Tom Embury provided an update on the report regarding WMCA Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

The Government's February 2022 Levelling Up White Paper promised, as part of its commitment to "Deepening Devolution", 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. Following a period of development throughout 2022 16 devolution proposals were developed ranging from transport to crime, climate change to health inequalities.

One of the areas that was not originally included was around community safety and justice. There was a significant proposal put forward by the Authority but was not progressed.

Now that the deal has been agreed we should look at what opportunities we might have and what we can do moving forward.

As per the report there are 3 areas highlighted under section 4.

The first is Housing and Retrofit. Housing and regeneration are already key levers for the WMCA, and the devolution deal provides greater flexibility and funding for redeveloping brownfield sites and delivering social and affordable housing. There will be implications for the Service in terms of where new developments are focused and the methods of construction for affordable housing.

Regarding 4.3 Data; WMCA has ambitions to publish more data as well, taking inspiration from the London Datastore, which brings together city-wide data from multiple authorities and public services in the capital.

WMFS already share data with partners and central government, including providing our performance/operation data to the Birmingham City Observatory for public access. However, there are opportunities to access more data in areas such as transport, economy and climate resilience which could inform the services Community Risk Management Planning and wider strategy.

There are many elements related to transport which are already being reviewed. New developments are happening across the West Midlands which present new risks. An example of this is the Electric Bus fleet in Coventry.

Following queries regarding fires caused by electrical vehicles, Tom Embury advised this is an area for concern nationally. This is new technology, and we are currently seeing the risks and impacts of this technology not being used correctly. In terms of the type of Firefighting involved with electric vehicles, we understand it is different and is being picked up within CRMP.

Social Media has provided a lot of information on prevention techniques regarding Electric Scooters and phone batteries.

Councillor Gavin Lloyd advised having a piece of literature/leaflets on prevention techniques, as whilst these workshops are good there has been no physical information provided to individuals who attended.

**Resolved**

1. Prevention team to look to develop physical information to provide to the communities.

22/23 **Collaboration and Transformation – Work Programme 2023-24**

Some items have been added to the workplan. The Serious Violence Duty update will be provided in January.

The JESIP update will be provided in April.

23/23 **Any Other Business**

To note the date of the next Collaboration and Transformation Committee is scheduled to take place on Monday, 15 January 2024.



**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Item 4

**COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE**

**15 JANUARY 2024**

1. **COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION – DIGITAL, DATA AND INNOVATION**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

THAT Members:

- 1.1 Note the ongoing organisational commitment to digital Collaboration and Transformation.
- 1.2 Note our progress on Legacy Systems Transformation (UKG) & Operational Mobile Device Projects.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 To provide an update around the ongoing digital transformation enabled through the West Midlands Fire Service Digital, Data and Innovation Strategy.
- 2.2 To provide updates on our key transformation projects and how these give value to our communities and introduce early considerations for projects that will shape and support the service into the future.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 **Digital Collaboration**

- 3.1.1 We continue our focus to delivering digital services and widening our collaboration with other services as evident through recent sharing of key applications with Kent Fire Service. We are increasing opportunities to widen our partnerships and pursue opportunities for shared procurement. These fire sector collaborations provide economies of scale; reduce costs for all

involved and maximise public sector funding whilst allowing sharing of good practice.

- 3.1.2 We continue to provide services to the National Fire Chiefs' Council (NFCC).

### 3.2 **Digital Incident Command (Unblur)**

- 3.2.1 We continue to deploy and train on the new Incident Command Software (Unblur). This trial is currently focused on the Birmingham area following a previous trial in the Coventry & Solihull area. Unblur has been used at incidents and exercises allowing us to utilise the latest technologies to provide our crews with access to key information as well as improving safety.

- 3.2.2 As part of this trial, we have issued personal devices that can be used by crews to improve communication on the incident ground and provide key information about hazards and risks. They enhance incident ground connectivity working in conjunction with the tablets already installed in our fire appliances.

- 3.2.3 The outcomes and evidence from the Birmingham trial will allow us to consider and shape the full rollout across the service.

### 3.3 **Legacy Systems Transformation (UKG)**

- 3.3.1 We have made significant progress testing and training on our new time and attendance system UKG, which is due for release in March / April 2024. This will help improve both efficiency and effectiveness as we replace several legacy systems that are no longer fit for purpose.

- 3.3.2 As with any new, large delivery project communication, engagement and training is paramount. We have a dedicated project team working closely with staff across the service focusing on training and implementation plans that will help our staff make the transition to the new system.

- 3.3.3 The ongoing cyber landscape means that we need to move away from other legacy systems, specifically those that manage our Fleet, Assets and Water Systems. Planning for the sequencing of closing these legacy systems is underway.

3.3.4 We continue to invest in and improve trust through improved reporting and enabling our teams to see the information they need.

### 3.4 **Command & Control & ICCS**

- 3.4.1 We have now reached a point where we need to invest in our critical mobilising systems (Command & Control). This system is fundamental to the service as it enables calls to be received by fire control and then resources to be mobilised. The service will take the opportunity to combine this project with the ongoing review of fire control working practices and we are currently in the early stages of project initiation.
- 3.4.2 Aligned to our digital strategy, this system will open new ways of working and reduce risks to our communities as well as streamline our support. It will link systems from initial 999 calls to our resources, equipping our crews with more information before arriving to scene in support of Firefighter safety.
- 3.4.3 As the project plan develops there will be greater clarity on timescales and business benefits, but we are expecting delivering of the full system within 18 months.

### 3.5 **Next Steps**

- 3.5.1 Our next key investments will be to replace the remaining legacy systems, enhance cyber protection and increase our capabilities to extract, understand and forecast data. Another key focus will be our continued journey into using mainstream artificial intelligence (AI) to support our day-to-day work.
- 3.5.2 The Digital, Data and Innovation strategy continues to be embedded into Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) and annual priorities. This is enabling us to deliver solutions that reduce costs while delivering more for our communities. This strategy will be refreshed aligned to the delivery of a refreshed strategy and CRMP documents in 2024.

## 4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1 In preparing this report, an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been conducted.
- 4.2 Our progress in digital technology should be considered as having a positive effect on our neurodiverse staff. We continue to provide assistive technology for staff with needs such as dyslexia and are

expanding this to include literacy assistance into Oracle aligned to feedback from our teams.

- 4.3 We continue to work closely with our networking groups to ensure that our digital systems are easily understood and effective for all. We maintain our focus on training to ensure our teams are skilled in the use of the systems they need.
- 4.4 The use of digital technology continues to provide opportunities to engage people that do not have English as their first language. This continues to be a key feature of any area when we deliver services to the public.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct legal implications.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report. It is recognised that each individual project will require investment and individual funding requirements for the projects (including approvals) will be considered in full as they develop.

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There has been a positive shift towards our environmental policy due to digital investments and this has transformed ways of working. Staff are now able to work in a hybrid way so they can maintain their effectiveness regardless of whether they are in the office or working remotely.
- 7.2 Ongoing digital delivery, modernisation and targeted cloud investment continues to provide options for our estate and how we use it. Ongoing transformation and movement of key functions as well as collaboration is enhanced by digital technology.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

N/A

The contact for this report is Kash Singh, Head of Digital and Data, telephone number 07973 810 377.

Wayne Brown  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER





**WEST MIDLANDSFIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Item 5

**COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE**

**15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

1. **SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY**

Report of the Clerk to the Authority

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1. THAT Members note the content of this report regarding the update on the Serious Violence Duty.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide the Collaboration and Transformation Committee with an update on the Serious Violence Duty and how West Midlands Fire Service are meeting its statutory obligations.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The Serious Violence Duty was created as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. It came into force on 31 January 2023 and applies to a range of public sector bodies including all fire and rescue authorities. Accompanying Statutory Guidance was published in December 2022.
- 3.2. The duty is designed to drive a multi-agency, collaborative approach to tackling and preventing serious violence in all its forms. It requires police, fire and rescue services, Integrated Care Boards, local health boards, local authorities, youth offending teams and probation services to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in their area(s). Other relevant authorities, including prisons and schools, can be consulted as part of this process.

- 3.3. The three core elements of the duty are:
- 3.3.1. Understanding local issues – requiring partners to work together to establish a strategic needs assessment considering the drivers of violence and the communities most affected or at risk. This will include sharing relevant data.
  - 3.3.2. Preparation, publication and implementation of a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence - Partners will be held accountable for any actions they are committed to within the strategy. The strategy may include considerations of joint funding.
  - 3.3.3. Review – Partners to regularly review whether the strategy remains fit for purpose (at least annually) and considering success against its aims.
- 3.4. Each local area must have in place a strategy by January 2024. The Home Office have three key success measures for the new duty:
- 3.4.1. A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged 25 and under;
  - 3.4.2. A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims ages 25 and under;
  - 3.4.3. A reduction in all homicides and especially those that are non-domestic and among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.
- 3.5. Fire and rescue services are recognised as having a less central role in the partnership in both the statutory guidance and the government's own impact assessments. However, there are a number of areas where the statutory guidance suggested fire could contribute:
- 3.5.1. Fire and Rescue services have a tradition of engaging with local communities to promote fire safety as well as supporting citizenship, community cohesion and direct support to vulnerable individuals and communities.

- 3.5.2. Fire and Rescues work with children and young people, safeguarding as well as fire reduction strategies, such as the sectors work to reduce deliberate fires, should be recognised as part of the Duty.
- 3.5.3. Fire and Rescue Services should be supported to deliver trauma informed interventions, engagement activities and safety education to targeted children and young people which supports the personal development and social and emotional learning of the child to reduce their vulnerability and increase their resilience to reduce serious violence.
- 3.5.4. Fire and Rescue Services should continue to develop partnerships to support risk reduction services to those identified as vulnerable and at risk from exploitation or abuse.

#### 4. **WEST MIDLANDS APPROACH**

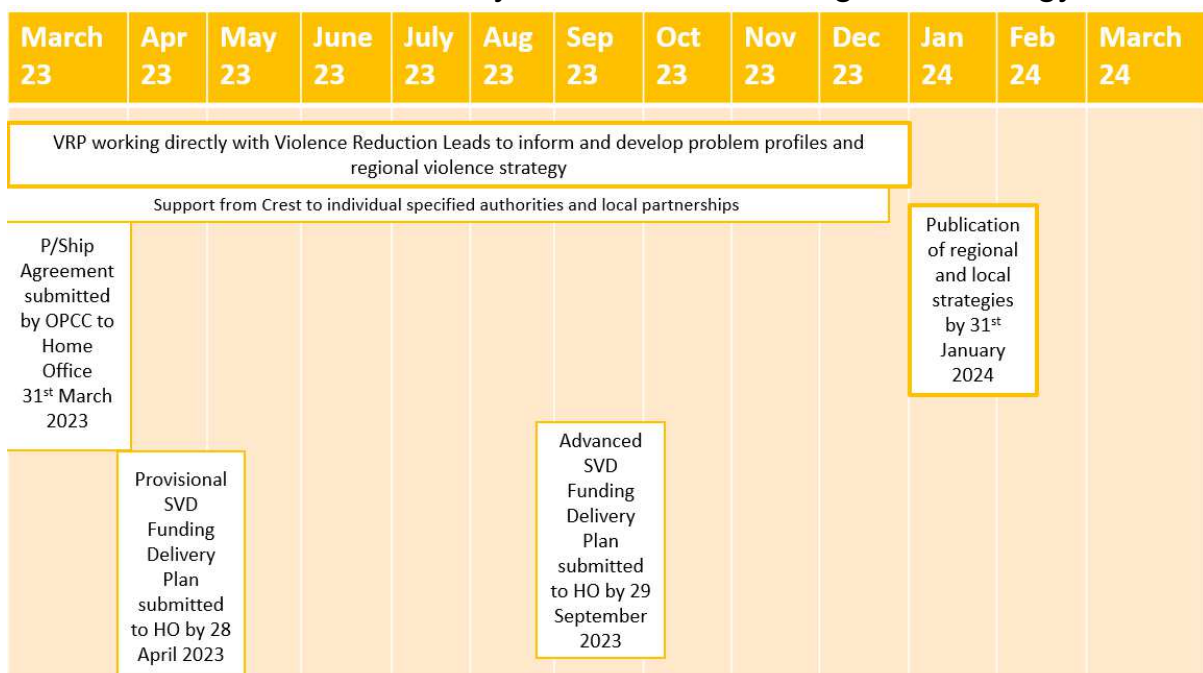
- 4.1. In the West Midlands, the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership is the vehicle for the production of the strategy. However, serious violence reduction sub-groups will also exist within each of the seven existing Community Safety Partnerships, which will contribute toward local “problem profiles”.
- 4.2. Although serious violence is not limited to physical violence against a person and can include domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence, the West Midlands strategy will be focused on homicide, gun and knife crime. It will specifically not include the wider category of violence against women and girls.
- 4.3. Funding has been provided by the Home Office which will be distributed by the Office of the Police and Commissioner. This funding has been provided for three years and is not a significant amount (just over £700,000 over the three years) but can be used to fund both labour and non-labour costs (such as interventions).
- 4.4. The Violence Reduction Partnership has responsibility for the governance of the allocation and management of these funds to local projects and providers.

## 5. **UPDATE**

### 5.1 **Timeline for Implementation**

The chart below gives the currently agreed timetable for the creation and implementation of the regional strategy by January 2024. The 7 local authority areas have been in the process of developing their local problem profiles that are being collated by the VRP to produce a regional strategy.

During August 2023, the VRP conducted a Public Insight Survey. The results of the survey will feed into the regional strategy.



### 5.2 **Regional Strategy**

The regional strategy is due to be published in January 2024. Early indications are that the priorities will be:

- Prevention
- Community and Youth Led approaches to violence reduction
- Building closer regional partnerships that support innovation
- Development of a West Midlands wide movement that aims for a violence free region
- Upscale delivery of trauma informed programmes in schools

### 5.3 **NFCC Serious Violence Briefing Note**

In September 2023 the NFCC published a Serious Violence Duty Briefing note. The briefing note is [attached](#) and aligns with the approach being taken by WMFS.

### 5.4 **WMFS Statutory Obligations**

5.4.1 Head of Prevention, Pete Wilson is the WMFS representative for the Serious Violence Duty and is part of the VRP strategic group that leads on the Duty. WMFS will be represented on the 7 local boards responsible for Serious Violence. This is mainly delegated through the local Community Safety Partnerships.

5.4.2 WMFS meets its statutory obligations under the Serious Violence duty by:

1. Supporting the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) with the development of the Regional Strategy.
2. Through the value the work that we already undertake towards reducing violence including:
  - Fire Cadets
  - Safe and Well visits
  - Safety Education activities
  - Undertaking our duties under Safeguarding, Prevent and Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.
3. Proactively providing links into the community for VRP partner agencies through community events and open days and other means.

5.4.3 In addition, particular projects and initiatives undertaken by our local stations contribute directly to the serious violence duty. One example is the promotion of Bleed Kits led by WM Russ Edwards Purple Watch at Ladywood FS. This initiative provides ongoing support to the Daniel Baird Foundation, enhancing the roll-out of community bleed kits across Birmingham.

## 6. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

As this paper is to note and does not involve a change in WMFS policy, no initial Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken. There is an existing government impact assessment undertaken as part of the legislative process to introduce the duty, [which can be read here](#).

## 7. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The new Duty applied to West Midlands Fire Service as of 31 January 2023. We are legally required, alongside our partners, to have created a regional serious violence strategy by January 2024.

## 8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. There will be resources associated with meeting the requirements of the duty, mostly in terms of staff time. This will vary depending on the level of involvement WMFS are expected to have both in terms of the regional strategy and via CSP sub-groups.
- 8.2. Some central funding has been provided to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for a three year period to support the implementation of the duty. This will include funds for either staff time or to support interventions. WMFS will be able to bid for a portion of this funding.

## 9. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental implications associated with this paper.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Serious Violence Duty: Preventing and reducing serious violence  
Statutory Guidance for responsible authorities](#)

[Serious Violence Duty: Impact Assessment](#)

The contact for this report is Pete Wilson, Head of Prevention.

Karen Gowreesunker  
CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY

**WEST MIDLANDSFIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Item 6

**COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE**

**15 JANUARY 2024**

**1. LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLABORATION**

Report of the Clerk of the Authority

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1. THAT Members note the details of current WMFS collaboration with Local Authorities within the West Midlands.
- 1.2. THAT Members consider the further role that Authority members could play in fostering collaboration between the Service and constituent Authorities.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1. To provide members with background information on existing collaboration between WMFS and the seven constituent Local Authorities within the West Midlands, and support discussion on the role of Fire Authority members in supporting and extending such collaboration.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. Aside from collaboration at emergency incidents, WMFS works closely with all seven of our constituent authorities in a wide range of areas, including, but not limited to:

**3.2. Local Resilience Forum**

All seven Local Authorities are members of the West Midlands Conurbation Local Resilience Forum alongside WMFS, as well as partners from the Police, NHS and other “Category 1” responders as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA). WMFS also chairs the Forum. The purpose of the LRF process is to ensure effective delivery of duties under the CCA that need to be developed in a multi-agency environment and individually as a

Category 1 responder. These duties include planning for foreseeable risks across the West Midlands Conurbation, enabling a more effective joint response when these risks are realised and emergency incidents occur.

### 3.3. **Protection of Buildings**

WMFS works closely with local authorities to ensure the protection of buildings in their local areas, especially where they are LA owned. This has included supporting the fitting of sprinklers in a number of high-rise residential properties owned by local authorities. Local Authorities also play an important role in supporting the Service to secure dangerous buildings where they present a risk to the public, such as derelict buildings or buildings that have been involved in a fire.

### 3.4. **Fire Safety Order – Building Regulations and Planning**

WMFS's Building Regulations and Planning team ensure that buildings are constructed and changed in accordance with all fire safety aspects of current building regulations.

Article 45 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO) says that, where it is proposed to erect, extend, alter or change the use of a building, a local authority must consult WMFS before passing plans for premises where the Order applies. The team then provide 'observations' on the plans.

Councils also consult with our Building Regulations Team regarding changes to buildings with a higher risk profile, such as properties that become licensed homes of multiple occupancy, or where the local authority has discovered properties that don't have the necessary planning or building consents.

### 3.5. **Fire Safety Order – Licensing**

Our Fire Safety Officers work in conjunction with Local Authorities to ensure the FSO is enforced. Under Article 42 of the FSO, local authorities must ensure that WMFS can make 'representations' before issuing a licence to any commercial business applying for a licence under the Licensing Act 2003.



Licensing officers must also notify the local Authority of any action that it takes in relation to licensed premises. The local authority enforces the Safety at Sports Ground Act 1975 and Fire Safety & Safety of Places of Sports Act 1987 in the West Midlands however, licensing officers act in an advisory capacity to the local authority for fire safety measures in these premises.

Licensing officers also play a key role on Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs) for all local authorities. SAGs provide a forum for discussing and advising on public safety at an event.

### 3.6. **Prevention Activity**

Our Safe and Well and other prevention activity is targeted at the most vulnerable, and we are helped to target by referrals from partners, including from local authorities. Equally, we aim to refer those we visit to appropriate support and services as required, including to the local authority.

We have a key role to play in safeguarding vulnerable people and work closely with local authorities and other partners to do this. For example, all seven local authority areas have a framework setting out a multi-agency approach to supporting people with self-neglect and/or hoarding issues, which also set out approaches to joint working. This includes referring cases of hoarding to WMFS for a Safe and Well, or to our Complex Needs Officers where a case is more complex.

We work with local authorities on specific campaigns as well, be that water, road or fire safety. A recent example would be the [“Safe Battery Disposal” campaign](#) launched with Sandwell Council designed to reduce the number of fires caused by carelessly discarded batteries and electrical items.

### 3.7. **Partnerships**

WMFS and Local Authorities collaborate as members of a range of partnerships at the local and regional level, including the West Midlands Road Safety Partnership, and the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership.

#### 4. **ROLE OF AUTHORITY MEMBERS**

- 4.1. The role of Fire Authority members is defined in the Authority's Constitution, and Article 2 section 2.2.1 sets out the various responsibilities of members, including to represent and promote the work of the Authority in its provision of fire services, and to fulfil "a community leadership and representative function, working as necessary in partnership with other local organisations in order to effectively promote the safety and well-being of the whole community of the West Midlands."
- 4.2. Section 41 Members have a more specific responsibility to answer questions on behalf of the Authority at their constituent council, and to more widely act as lead members on behalf of their Local Authority. S41 members already provide regular six-monthly reports to their authorities which outline service performance and highlight key areas of work.
- 4.3. It is clear that members have a role to play in facilitating and supporting the effective collaboration between local authorities and the fire service and are uniquely well placed to do so as representatives of both.
- 4.4. There is already a strong track record of members supporting such collaboration in areas such as the retro-fitting of sprinklers in local authority housing, tackling anti-social behaviour and securing derelict or other high-risk sites to reduce the risk of arson or accidental fires.
- 4.5. There may be further opportunities for members to support collaboration between their local authorities and WMFS, and to raise awareness within their local authority of the services or support that WMFS can offer. It may also be that, in line with their role as defined within the constitution, they could make the service aware of opportunities for further collaboration with projects or pieces of work undertaken by their local authority.

#### 5. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

No initial Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken as this paper does not relate to service policy change.

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 to West Midlands Fire Service.

8. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct environmental implications to the service as a result of this paper as it is to note.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The contact for this report is Tom Embury, Political and Policy Advisor – [tom.embury@wmfs.net](mailto:tom.embury@wmfs.net).

Karen Gowreesunker  
CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY



**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE**

**WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>2023</b>			
4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Revised Collaboration and Transformation Committee Terms of Reference	Deputy Clerk	4 <sup>th</sup> September
	Collaboration and Transformation Committee areas of focus 2023/24	Deputy Clerk	4 <sup>th</sup> September (combined with the above report)
	Collaboration and Transformation Committee Work Plan 2023/24	Democratic Services Officer	
	Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee	Democratic Services Officer	
6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Prevention and Health Inequalities – Strategic Collaboration	Head of Prevention	6 <sup>th</sup> November
	CRMP Consultation 2023 – Partner Outcomes	CRMP Manager	6 <sup>th</sup> November
	WMCA Trailblazing Devolution Deal – Update	Policy Advisor	6 <sup>th</sup> November

	Collaboration and Transformation Committee Work Plan 2023/24	Democratic Services Officer	6 <sup>th</sup> November
	Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee	Democratic Services Officer	6 <sup>th</sup> November

2024			
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Digital Transformation Update  Serious Violence Duty – Update  Local Authority Collaboration  Collaboration and Transformation Committee Work Plan 2023/24  Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee	Head of Digital and Data  Head of Prevention  Policy Advisor  Democratic Services Officer  Democratic Services Officer	
8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Collaboration and Transformation Committee Work Plan 2023/24  JESIP – Tri-Service Collaboration  Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee	Democratic Services Officer  TBC  Democratic Services Officer	

2024-2025 Municipal Year (Dates TBC)	Collaboration and Transformation Committee Work Plan 2024/25	Democratic Services Officer	
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\*Depending upon Government/HMICFRS publishing timelines

