

# 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, 06 November 2023 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 4th September 2023</b>   | <b>3 - 8</b>   |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Progress Update Reducing Health Inequalities CRMP Project</b>   | <b>9 - 18</b>  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>CRMP Consultation 2023 - Partner Outcomes</b>   | <b>19 - 26</b> |
| <b>6</b> | <b>WMCA Trailblazer Devolution Deal</b>  | <b>27 - 32</b> |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Work Programme 2023-2024</b>  | <b>33 - 36</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 15 January 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**  
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**Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee**

**04<sup>th</sup> 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 Babcock, Karen  
Gowreesunker and Chandni Patel

**Please note:** Cllr Miks attended as an observer.

Councillor Spence left at 10:47am. (Agenda Item 3)

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

Cllr Kettle

02/23 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

03/23 **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 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were approved as a  
correct record of proceedings.

04/23 **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 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.

05/23

**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 provided on the work programme.

06/23

**Any other business**

Following queries, Tom advised that there will be 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 6<sup>th</sup> November

The meeting ended at 11.08am.





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

**6TH NOVEMBER 2023**

**1. PROGRESS UPDATE REDUCING HEALTH INEQUALITIES  
CRMP PROJECT**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT Members note the progress that is being made in delivering the Reducing Health Inequalities CRMP Project.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide an update on the progress made so far with delivering the tasks and intended outcomes of the Reducing Health Inequalities CRMP Project.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The National Fire and Rescue Framework 2018 requires all FRS to produce an Integrated (Community) Risk Management Plan (CRMP). The plans analyse a wide range of data to assess all foreseeable risks and provide evidenced based strategy that demonstrates how Response, Prevention and Protection activities reduce and mitigate the impacts of fire and other emergency incidents.
- 3.2 The Reducing Health Inequalities (RHI) project is one of the projects that specifically support the delivery of the WMFS CRMP.
- 3.3 There is 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 co-ordinate suite of Prevention activities, across the life course, that reduce health inequalities and therefore reduce risk and vulnerability to fire and other emergencies.

- 3.4 Building on the Prevention activities currently delivered and the and digital system transformation that has already started, the project aims to deliver outcomes across four thematic areas which are People, Digital, Data and Partnerships & Collaboration.

#### 4. **PROJECT PROGRESS AND UPDATE**

##### 4.1 **General Updates**

- 4.1.1 In August 2023 there was a change of Project Manager, and the project is now being managed by Station Commander Andy Clay (temp). Andy's substantive position is Prevention Evaluation and Quality Assurance Officer.
- 4.1.2 The project continues to be delivered using a collaborative approach across teams and functions within WMFS and with external partners. Teams made up of relevant stakeholders are being formed to undertake the tasks within the project.
- 4.1.3 To evaluate and evidence the impact that the resources and activities within the project make, a comprehensive logic model and evaluation plan has been created. This sets out, the short and medium outcomes along with what and how we will measure the intended impact of the activities within the project.

##### 4.2 **Digital Outcomes Update**

###### 4.2.1 **The digital outcomes of the project are:-**

- Digital technology enables prevention activity to be accurately recorded and data collected which allows the impact and outcome of prevention activity to be measured, monitored, quality assured and evaluated.
- Education activities will become more effective through different ways of working utilising digital technologies.
- Advances in assistive technology enable prevention activities to be delivered proactively or for the risk to be reduced by the technology itself.

- Improved access to diverse digital services allows the community to take actions that reduce health inequality and reduce their risk of fire and other emergencies.

#### 4.2.2 Progress against the Digital outcomes from the project are detailed below:-

Service User evaluation of [Safe & Well](#) (SAW) continues to be integral to delivery of the service with surveys being sent to all service users who received a visit the end of each financial quarter. The results from the surveys are monitored and accessed through a Power Bi dashboard.

#### 4.2.3 The data from the surveys continues to indicate that SAW is improving people's health, wellbeing, and quality of life and reducing risk and vulnerability to fire. Some examples of what the 3,868 responses to date tell us include:

- 92.7% of the respondents say that they have a greater understanding of the risk of falling which is an increase on 91% reported in September 2022
- 96.9% of those who smoke say they have a greater understanding of the risks of smoking which is an increase on the 95% reported in September 2022
- Of those who smoke 279 people have now been referred to stop smoking services and 122 (43.7%) of those who were referred told us they have stopped smoking which is an increase on the 41% reported in September 2022
- Just under a third of those who respond tell us that they had been referred to services for further support for one or more of the following; smoking cessation, child safety, loneliness, winter warmth and alcohol services.

#### 4.2.4 The development of the Tymly system to record SAW visits and innovate business processes to support delivery has been 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.

- 4.2.5 Tymly continues to be used to record Safe & Wells (SAW) that are completed remotely by phone, and we have completed 672 remote assessments since inception up to the end of September 2023.
- 4.2.6 Work to develop the Tymly system to innovate and transform the delivery Prevention activities has continued. In June this year, the recording of Complex Needs Officer (CNO) cases was moved to Tymly. Alongside the introduction of Tymly for CNO cases, the records for status of CNO referrals and allocation of cases to CNOs was moved to MS SharePoint list taking advantage of the functionality of Microsoft Office 365 (O365). This also enabled Operations Admin Teams across all Command to streamline and standardise these processes. Aligned to the use of Tymly and O365, we have also been able to introduce a MS PowerBi dashboard to monitor performance and understand the multiple and complex needs of those being supported by CNOs.
- 4.2.7 Functionality of the O365 SharePoint list has also improved visibility of case management and therefore our awareness of risk. This means that we are better able to evidence our work to reduce risk and vulnerability and improve safety, health wellbeing and quality of life for those that the CRMP identifies as being most at risk and vulnerable to fire.
- 4.2.8 This visibility and standardisation of process has supported Prevention and CNOs to significantly reduce the number and length of time that people wait to be allocated for support from a CNO.
- 4.2.9 The project scope for Tymly to deliver all Prevention activities and education programmes is now complete and has been revised to include the requirements for Safeguarding records so that it incorporates this too.
- 4.2.10 The service is currently undertaking an 'early market engagement' process to determine the most efficient and effective approach to deliver the remainder of the digital system for all activities and programmes.

### 4.3 **Data Outcomes**

#### 4.3.1 The data outcome is:

- Data is shared and governed between partner organisations and is used effectively to identify people at risk of fire and other emergency incidents.

#### 4.3.2 Progress against the digital outcome to date:-

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.

#### 4.3.3 The work to develop and implement a protocol guidance for making proactive contact with households' data suggests may be at risk and vulnerable to fire and other emergencies is in progress. This will support the use of Acorn and other data to pro-actively target those that the data identifies as being at risk and vulnerable to fires and other emergencies.

### 4.4 **Partnership & Collaboration Outcomes**

#### 4.4.1 The Partnership & Collaboration Outcomes are:-

- 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.
- WMFS is commissioned to deliver activities that contribute to reducing health inequalities.

#### 4.4.2 Progress against the Partnership & Collaboration outcomes to date:

WMFS is a member of the 3 Integrated Care Partnerships (ICP) in our service area (Birmingham & Solihull, Black Country, and Coventry & Warwickshire).

4.4.3 ICPs bring together providers and commissioners of NHS services across a geographical area with local authorities and other local partners to collectively plan health and care services to integrate this across different organisations and settings to meet the needs of their population.

4.4.4 WMFS continues to engage in the work of the ICPs and this has provided opportunity for the service to explore the benefits of delivering SAW visits as part of the new NHS Virtual Ward and Hospital at Home services.

4.4.5 Following engagement with NFCC and NHS England pilots are progressing on this with Black Country ICP and University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire.

4.4.6 Working alongside NFCC colleagues, engagement has commenced nationally with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to identify how their inspection regime can recognise and incorporate home fire safety. To support this, there is an NFCC working group with the RHI project manager as a member to develop a brief intervention for fire safety for non-fire service personnel to set a 'standard method' that can be 'inspected' for compliance by CQC.

## 4.5 **People Outcomes**

4.5.1 The People outcomes are:-

- All staff understand and appreciate that health inequalities impact on risk and vulnerability to fire and other emergencies and see reducing health inequalities as an essential service delivery requirement.
- We attract and recruit staff that are skilled in the delivery of this work as a major part of the role.
- Staff delivering prevention activities are ready, willing, and able to have conversations with people about their health and wellbeing and understand when to refer on to other agencies for support.
- WMFS can evidence the impact it has on reducing health inequalities and subsequently on the risk and vulnerability to fire and other emergencies.

#### 4.5.2 Progress against the people outcomes to date:-

The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) in consultation with UKFRS and with support of the Home Office have developed a national Person-Centred Home Fire Safety Visit (PCF). The PCF supports all FRS to deliver a standardised and evidence-based approach to a person-centred HFSV.

4.5.3 To support the implementation of the NFCC Person Centred Framework (PCF), WMFS has been working with regional colleagues to develop a consistent approach to data collection. Additionally, WMFS has contributed to the development of the competency framework to provide a standardised method of setting expectations for skills, knowledge and behaviours required to deliver home fire safety visits. This provides opportunity to support the workforce to develop and obtain the required competence which can be assessed and quality assured.

4.5.4 The online home fire safety check (OHFSC) has been developed to complement the PCF, which underpins the work of remote and face to face Home Fire Safety Visits and deliver a product available to households who may not reach the threshold for a physical visit, or to be used when and where physical visits are restricted or not possible. It has been designed to provide a person-centred self-assessment of fire risk for individuals that may have low or medium fire risk.

4.5.5 Available free of charge to all FRSs in England, this user-friendly resource has been developed in collaboration with Fire Kills and SafeLincs under the NFCC's Prevention Programme.

4.5.6 To ensure that those most at risk and vulnerable are not overlooked, the tool has a mechanism to flag a user to their local FRS where a physical visit would be recommended because of completing the self-assessment. It has been designed to be used by either the home occupant directly, a third party (police, social worker, paramedic etc) who may have concerns to an occupant's welfare or safety, or simply aid the FRS directly with home visits.

- 4.5.7 It supports the provision of universal home fire safety guidance proportionate to risk and vulnerability enabling WMFS to target its resources to provide face to face SAW to those who are at highest risk and vulnerability.
- 4.5.8 The service has successfully completed the onboarding of the OHFSC. Everyone who self refers through WMFS.net uses the OHFSC. Those whose risk is medium to high are provided with the opportunity to refer themselves for a SAW using this approach. To date 308 of the SAW assessments either completed face to face or remotely were received through the OHFSC. It has been trialled with a social housing provider for them to use with their new tenants so that all receive an initial assessment and those who are deemed to have medium and high risk are referred to WMFS for a SAW. This trial has been evaluated by WMFS and the provider as a good practice approach and is now being rolled out to social housing providers across the service area.

#### 4.6 **Next Steps**

- 4.6.1 For **Digital outcomes** work continues to develop and build the Tymly system for Prevention education and activities including safeguarding. This will see the PCF fully integrated in to SAW.
- 4.6.2 The next steps are to assess the outcome of the early market engagement to determine the most appropriate approach to the build of the system.
- 4.6.3 For **Data outcomes** work to develop the PowerBi dashboard and guidance for use the Acorn data will continue over the coming weeks and months.
- 4.6.4 For **People outcomes**, the focus will be creating a proactive contact strategy and protocols to enable better use of and access to individuals that data sets indicate are at risk and vulnerable to fire and other emergencies.
- 4.6.5 When available, the service will also onboard the e-learn package that the NFCC are making available to support the delivery of the PCF for home fire safety visits.

And



- 4.6.6 For **Partnerships & Collaboration** outcomes, work will continue to build our relationships, brand, and value with the ISPs. To support this work is commencing on developing a clear offer of what WMFS can contribute with health partners.

5. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 In preparing this report, an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been conducted.
- 5.2 Throughout the life of the project, initial Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken and where appropriate full Equality Impact Assessments will take place. WMFS Networking and working groups, will be engaged, and consulted to ensure that the outcomes are effective, fit for purpose and understood by all.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct legal implications.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications.

8. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Positive impact on the environment is being enabled through the digital outcomes in the project and the effective targeting of services and activity.

The contact for this report is Pete Wilson, Head of Prevention, telephone number 07973 810 262.

Wayne Brown  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



# **WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

## **COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION**

**MONDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2023**

### **1. CRMP CONSULTATION OUTCOMES 2023**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1. THAT Members note the content of this report.
- 1.2. THAT members consider providing feedback and suggestions in relation to how we could further improve collaboration and engagement for future consultations.

### **2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 2.1 This report is submitted to provide an overview to the Collaboration and Transformation Committee in relation to the recent Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) consultation.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Total number of responses:

<b>Total Responses</b>	
Public	4,786
Partners	139
Staff	726
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,651</b>

- 3.2 Engagement took place at the start of the consultation, to ensure all partners knew when the consultation was live, how long it was open for and how to respond. Engagement continued throughout the consultation period to encourage wider partner agency responses, including targeting those we had not received a

response. Partners who have responded to the consultation are listed below:

- West Midlands Police
- West Midlands Ambulance Service
- West Midlands Combined Authority
- Local Authorities, including responses from:
  - Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC)
  - City of Wolverhampton Council
  - Birmingham City Council
  - Dudley MBC
  - Coventry City Council
  - Walsall Council
  - Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- Fire sector
  - Warwickshire FRS
  - National Association of Retired Firefighters
- NHS
  - Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
  - Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
  - A number of individual NHS respondents
- Transport for West Midlands
- Residential care home providers
- Voluntary/charity organisations:
  - A.C.C.I. (African Caribbean Community Initiative)
  - The Air Ambulance Service
  - Birmingham Christmas Shelter
  - Neighbourhood Watch
  - NHS Volunteer
  - British Red Cross volunteer
  - The James Charities, Nechells
  - Warwickshire Search and Rescue

- Other individual volunteers
- Education establishments:
  - Halesowen College
  - Newman University
  - Heart of England School
  - The Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton
  - Nova Training
- Religious Establishments:
  - Christ Church Blakenall and St Chad's Beechdale churches
  - Shree Birmingham Pragati Mandal (Shree Krishna Temple)
- Other
  - Community, Courts and Probation
- National Association of Retired Firefighters.

3.3 Engagement was positive and consultation was supported by a wide range of valuable stakeholders. There was a consistent level of response across all consultation themes from partners, including Prevention, Protection, Response, People and Sustainability.

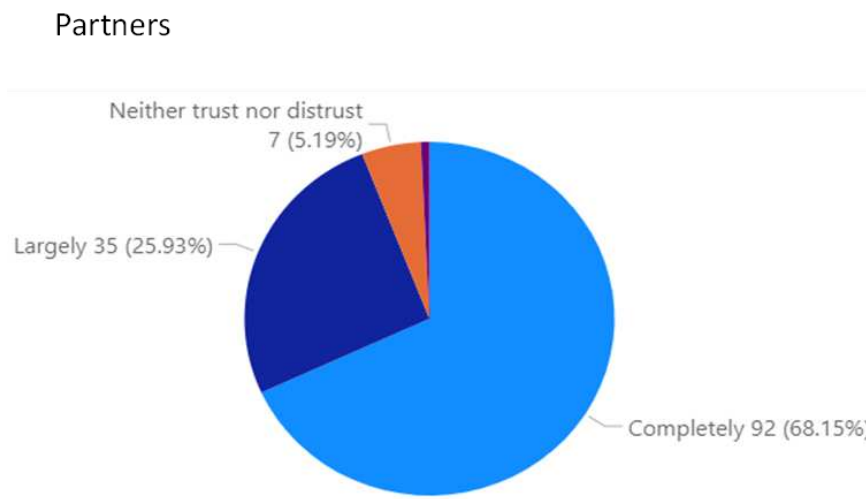
3.4 Of the stakeholders that were targeted, we did not receive submissions from the below:

- Home Office
- Fire Minister/Shadow Fire Minister
- British Transport Police
- Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
- Network Rail
- Highways England
- Birmingham Airport
- Environment Agency
- UK Health Security Agency
- Met Office
- Utility providers

- 3.5 We have not had a separate submission from representative bodies however, we have received 726 responses from staff.
- 3.6 We received one response from another fire and rescue service (FRS) – this was submitted by Warwickshire FRS. We did not receive responses from any other regional or national FRS.
- 3.7 Members are encouraged to provide feedback, considerations and suggestions in relation to how we could further improve collaboration and engagement for future consultations. A full debrief is due to take place in November this will consider public, staff and partner engagement.

### 3.8 **Overview of Partner Responses**

- 3.8.1 It was positive to find most partners said they either completely or largely trust West Midlands Fire Service, as shown in the chart below.



- 3.8.2 When asked about preparedness to disruptive events, overall, partners feel the most prepared for disruptive events out of staff, public and partners.
- 3.8.3 When asked about barriers to recruitment, of those who think there are barriers, the most common answers across each group are detailed in the table below.

	<b>Most common barriers selected</b>
<b>Public</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perception of the role of a firefighter</li> <li>• Never thought about joining the fire service</li> <li>• Disabilities or health concerns</li> <li>• Exposure to harm or trauma</li> </ul>
<b>Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perception of the role of a firefighter</li> <li>• Lack of information about the role</li> <li>• Shift work</li> <li>• Disabilities or health concerns/exposure to harm and trauma</li> </ul>
<b>Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salary and benefits</li> <li>• Perception of the role of a firefighter</li> <li>• Cultural/religious barriers</li> <li>• Shift work</li> </ul>

3.8.4 When asked about sustainability, of the 10 sustainability options listed, the public, partners and staff all chose the same top five future uses of a community fire station (although in slightly different orders). The table below shows where the top five options were placed by each group.

	<b>Public</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>Staff</b>
<b>Access to life-saving equipment</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>A base for multiple emergency services</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Safety information and education</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Emergency relief/rest centre</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Safe havens</b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>

3.8.5 When asked how we should prioritise a number of sustainability factors, the most common factors ranked first include - honesty, integrity and ethical behaviour as well as how we prepare for the future scale and frequency of climate-related emergencies.

3.8.6 The below table shows the average position per group for each factor.

	Public	Partner	Staff
<b>Honesty integrity and ethical behaviour</b>	2	2	2
<b>How to prepare for future scale and frequency of climate-related emergencies</b>	1	3	3
<b>Promote well-being for our communities and staff</b>	3	1	1
<b>Help communities make more sustainable decisions</b>	4	4	4
<b>Achieve net zero sooner rather than later</b>	5	5	5

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

In preparing the CRMP consultation a full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

#### 5. **DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing the CRMP consultation a full Data Protection Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

#### 6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The consultation proposed in this paper meets the Authority's requirements under the National Fire and Rescue Framework for England 2012.

#### 7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications to the approval of recommendations in this report.

#### 8. **SUSTAINABILITY (ENVIRONMENTAL) IMPLICATIONS**



In preparing the CRMP consultation, a full Sustainability Impact Assessment has been undertaken

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- [State of Fire and Rescue: The Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England 2019](#)
- [The NFCC, National Employers \(England\) and LGA 'Fit for the Future' report 2020](#)
- [Community Risk Management Planning Fire Standard](#)
- [HMICFRS Inspection Report](#)
- [Independent Culture Review | London Fire Brigade](#)
- [Views and culture in fire and rescue services](#)

The contact for this report is Hannah Spencer, CRMP Co-Ordinator – [Hannah.Spencer@wmfs.net](mailto:Hannah.Spencer@wmfs.net)



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

**6 NOVEMBER 2023**

**1. WMCA TRAILBLAZING DEVOLUTION DEAL**

Report of the Clerk of the Authority

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1. THAT Members note the details of the recently approved WMCA Trailblazer Devolution Deal.
- 1.2. THAT members consider how the Collaboration and Transformation Committee members, and wider Fire Authority, could facilitate greater WMFS involvement in relevant aspects of the Trailblazing Devolution Deal as it is implemented.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1. To provide members with an update on the WMCA Trailblazing Devolution Deal and the potential risks and opportunities presented to WMFRA/WMFS as a result.
- 2.2. To consider what steps Authority members could take to engage with the combined authority on the implementation of the deal to ensure that WMFS are considered as key partners.

**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. Following a period of development throughout 2022 in which 16 devolution proposals were developed ranging from transport to crime, climate change to health inequalities. The agreed deal,

published in March 2023, was more limited, focused primarily on areas concerned with the growing the local economy.

### 3.3. Key elements of the deal include:

- Government Department-style multi-year financial settlements. Instead of multiple small pots of money that the authority has to bid for annually, it will receive a “single settlement” with greater local power over spending decisions and reduced reporting and evaluation from central government. This would come into effect from the next spending review, expected in November 2024.
- Introduction of “Levelling Up Zones” which will feature 100% business rate retention for 25 years and will complement the separate “Investment Zones” announced by the government in March 2023 which offer a range of tax incentives for new and expanding businesses.
- Increased access to central government data and greater data sharing within the region.
- A new rail partnership for the West Midlands which will give greater control over ticketing and rail planning, and devolution of the bus service operators grant, giving greater control over how bus services are supported.
- Devolved funding for housing (including for the Affordable Homes Programme worth at least £200 million) and brownfield redevelopment funding (worth £100 million)
- Devolution of non-apprenticeship adult skills functions and grant funding in the next Spending Review (2024), local flexibilities, which will increase over time, over Free Courses for Jobs and Skills Bootcamps during this Spending Review.
- Piloting the devolution of net zero funding, including for buildings’ retrofit, through allocation rather than competition in the period from 2025 onwards.

### 3.4. It is notable that key areas in the original WMCA proposal, including Crime, Community Safety and Resilience, were not taken up by central government, although they remain committed to further development and expansion of the West Midlands devolution deal.

- 3.5. This deal was ratified by a unanimous vote of the constituent local authorities at the WMCA Board meeting on 13 October 2023. Steps will now be taken to implement the various elements of the deal, some of which will not come into effect until 2025.
- 3.6. By agreeing the deal, the WMCA are now also subject to greater accountability and scrutiny, including quarterly engagement with all West Midlands MPs, a more robust “Mayor’s Question Time” and a requirement to present to Parliamentary Select Committees when requested.
- 3.7. More details of the content of the deal and WMCA’s implementation plan can be found in the published papers from the WMCA Board meeting held on 13 October (see Background Papers).

4. **ELEMENTS OF GREATEST RELEVANCE TO WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE**

Of those areas that remain within the finalised plan, there are a few of particular interest to West Midlands Fire Service, and where further engagement may be of benefit.

**Housing and Retrofit**

- 4.1. Housing and regeneration are already key levers for the WMCA, and the devolution deal provides greater flexibility and funding for redeveloping brownfield sites and deliver social and affordable housing. There will be implications for Service in terms of where new developments are focused and the methods of construction for affordable housing. There will also be opportunities presented by increased action to repurpose and redevelop sites which might otherwise be at risk of dereliction and therefore increased risk of fire.
- 4.2. The WMCA’s ambitions around retrofit are significant, and the devolution of funding will enable greater flexibility in how this is achieved. West Midlands Fire Service will have an interest in the approaches being taken to retrofit and their implications for community risk, especially where new or innovative approaches are used.

## Data

- 4.3. The proposals around data will see an increase in the availability of data from central government to local government and in the other direction, and the deal is explicit in saying that “The government will work with WMCA to continue to explore options, legislative and otherwise, to safely streamline the sharing of data between the government, the wider public sector and WMCA and its constituent local authorities”. WMCA have 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.
- 4.4. 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 clearly 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. Equally, there may be opportunities to make our own data more accessible at a regional level to support greater transparency and accountability.

## Transport

- 4.5. Transport has also been a key area for WMCA before this deal, and much of the devolution proposals relate to greater control over funding for existing and planned transport developments. However, the “Transport Sandbox” designed to give the WMCA greater flexibility to push regulatory boundaries for innovative transport solutions such as automated vehicles, zero-emissions transport and dynamic traffic management. At a minimum, the service will need to understand these new approaches and their potential risks, and there may be opportunities to influence the regulatory changes proposed in line with our statutory responsibility around road safety.

## 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 from the devolution deal to West Midlands Fire Service. 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. There are no direct environmental implications to the service as a result of this paper as it is to note.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[C&T Committee Report: WMCA Trailblazing Devolution Deal - 12 December 2022](#)

[WMCA Board Papers – 13 October 2023](#)

[News Item – WMCA ratifies devolution deal](#)

[West Midlands Combined Authority Trailblazer deeper devolution deal – DLUHC Policy Paper](#) (published March 2023)

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

