

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE

4 SEPTEMBER 2023

1. **COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE
AREAS OF FOCUS 2023/24**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT Committee members note the recent update of the Committee terms of reference agreed at the Authority AGM on 26 June 2023.
- 1.2 THAT Committee members consider areas of focus for a 2023/24 Collaboration and Transformation Committee Forward Plan.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 To provide an update on the expanded terms of reference for the Collaboration and Transformation Committee, which should help focus decisions on future areas of interest.
- 2.2 To foster discussion amongst Committee members on the priorities for the Collaboration and Transformation Committee in 2023/24 aligned to the terms of reference.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 **Collaboration and Transformation Committee Terms of Reference**

As part of the wider update of the WMFRA Constitution approved at the Authority AGM on 26 June 2023, the terms of reference of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee was updated, in line with all other committees, to ensure it remained aligned to the agreed purpose of the committee and provided sufficient clarity. The updated terms of reference can be found in **Appendix A**, with changes from the previous terms of reference highlighted in red.

3.2 **Areas for Consideration by the Committee for development of 2023/24 Work Plan**

In order to deliver against its terms of reference covered under section 3.1, the C&T Committee is expected to scrutinise relevant topics and to submit findings and recommendations to the Authority for consideration.

A number of areas have been carried over from 2022/23 workplan, including CRMP Consultation Outcomes, the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty and Digital Transformation Updates. The key area of fire-ambulance collaboration (which falls under the Blue Light “Duty to Collaborate”) has been referred to the Scrutiny Committee for further consideration in 2023/24.

However, there are a range of further areas of potential collaboration and transformation which may be of interest to the committee.

The table below (Fig.1) outlines a range of potential collaboration areas and anticipated developments which may be topics of interest for the Committee in 2023/24. Committee members may wish to suggest further areas of focus during discussion.

Fig. 1 – Areas for consideration for Collaboration and Transformation Committee Work Plan

Topic	Detail
CRMP Projects	Ongoing oversight of the collaborative aspects of the various CRMP projects, including relevant digital developments.
Fire Reform – Consultation response	Subject to a government response, evaluation of the transformational and collaboration aspects of the Fire Reform Agenda from central government.
Collaboration with Police services	Assessment of strengths and weaknesses of current collaboration and opportunities for further collaboration with West Midlands Police and neighbouring forces, including in terms of shared services and estates.

Collaboration with regional fire and rescue services	Assessment of strengths and weaknesses of current collaboration and opportunities for further collaboration with neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services.
Digital Transformation	Ongoing oversight of WMFS Digital Transformation journey.
West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Trailblazer Devolution Deal	The devolution deal, published earlier in 2023, will see new powers and funding devolved to the West Midlands Combined Authority. Committee could explore opportunities for WMFS to collaborate in these new areas and the strength of existing collaboration and participation with WMCA.
Local Authority Collaboration	Assessing the strengths, weaknesses and further opportunities of WMFS collaboration with the seven constituent authorities of the West Midlands in areas such as housing, health and wellbeing and education. Specifically considering the role of Authority members in facilitating such collaboration.
Third Sector/Community Collaboration	Seeking to understand and promote WMFS's existing work with Third Sector Partners at a service and station level, and opportunities to expand.
Health and Social Care	Further opportunities to collaborate with the Health and Social Care reform agenda – especially in relation to our efforts around Reducing Health Inequalities (CRMP objective)

3.3 **Development of 2023/24 Forward Plan**

Committee are asked to consider any areas from the above table and their own thoughts for inclusion in the 2023/24 workplan. It is important that any such areas remain in line with the agreed terms of reference, specifically in relation to transformation and strategic collaboration.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The detail in this report enables the Authority to ensure alignment to the National Framework for Fire and Rescue Authorities 2018 and the Duty to Collaborate as set out in the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications.

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

This paper has no direct environmental implications.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

WMFRA Constitution – June 2023

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

Wayne Brown
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

APPENDIX A

Collaboration and Transformation Committee

7.1 The Authority has established a Collaboration and Transformation Committee of seven members, **with a quorum of three members who are eligible to vote.**

7.2 Role and Functions-

To support the Fire Authority's role and responsibility with regards to:

7.2.1 The strategic development and assurance of transformational collaborative working agreements (up to implementation) aligned to the 'Duty to Collaborate' (Policing and Crime Act 2017) and/or the delivery of the Authority' Strategy, The Plan.

7.2.2 To review the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of strategic collaboration work between the service and regional partners.

7.2.3 To receive updates on digital innovations and strategic collaborations with other organisations.

7.3 Findings and recommendations of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee are to be submitted to the Authority by the Chair of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee.

7.4 To submit its minutes to the Authority