

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

11 DECEMBER 2017

1. **NATIONAL FIRE CHIEFS' COUNCIL COMMUNITY RISK PROGRAMME**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Executive Committee notes the details around the National Fire Chief Councils (NFCC) Community Risk Programme.

THAT the Executive Committee approves the proposed funding arrangements for the NFCC Community Risk Programme (CRP).

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to seek approval for an outlay of £250k from West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority in a gain share arrangement which will initially fund the NFCC CRP.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The NFCC strategy went live on 1 October 2017 and provides a set of commitments that will be the basis of all engagement with stakeholders, guiding the objectives for the Central Programme Office, work plans and objectives for the coordinating committees.
- 3.2 With development of the strategic commitment - Assessing Community Risk, it is necessary for the NFCC to initiate the CRP with a series of projects to assist the NFCC in achieving this commitment.
- 3.3 For this to occur CFO Phil Loach has been appointed as the Programme Executive, with technical experts also required to support project leads where deemed appropriate.

4. COMMUNITY RISK PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The CRP is intended to fulfil a 3 year plan at which point the key projects and work plans will be delivered. The programme is developing at a time of much change within the fire sector and as such will need to remain agile to respond to the changing landscape.
- 4.2 The key benefit of the CRP, which will be a national programme, is it will produce a set of consistent tools that will enable the identification, assessment and mitigation strategies for community risks. Currently, no single approach exists.
- 4.3 For WMFRA, this will benefit our Integrated Risk Management Planning through utilising and accessing a consistent national methodology. In turn this will inform delivery of our Prevention, Protection and Response priorities to the Community of the West Midlands.
- 4.4 A CRP Board will be determined based on the needs of the Programme. The Programme team will be made up of a multi-discipline team from across the United Kingdom who will ultimately support the delivery of projects under the Programme.

5. COMMUNITY RISK PROGRAMME FUNDING PROPOSAL

- 5.1 In order for the CRP to commence, an initial tranche of funding is required so that resources can be put in place to begin the programme. Although the programme scope is being developed at the writing of this report, it will require resources to assist in that development.
- 5.2 A sum of £250k is being sought to cover the initial set up of the programme costs with the potential for more funding to be required from the NFCC in order to deliver the programme's aims. The NFCC meeting on 25th October 2017 approved the principle of a gain share arrangement, pending agreement from WMFRA.
- 5.3 As a result, it is proposed that the CRP project resources will initially be funded by WMFRA putting forward £250k in what will be a Gain Share arrangement.

- 5.4 This arrangement would involve some national savings from the smoke alarm contract, which went live in June 2017, being returned to WMFRA. Based on anticipated volumes, the smoke alarm contract is estimated to generate total annual savings of circa £500k. In order to recoup an up-front £250k investment by WMFRA, approximately £83,000 per year over a three-year period would be required by WMFRA from the Gain Share.

6. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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

7. **RISK IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The practical arrangements of the Gain Share arrangement still need to be determined. With the appointment of CFO Phil Loach as the Programme Executive, this will ensure close scrutiny and monitoring of expenditure and appropriate contributions from Fire and Rescue Services via the national smoke alarm contract to ensure value for money for WMFRA. As a result, risks can be minimised to as low as reasonably practical.

8. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The proposals do not raise any legal questions.

9. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 A commitment of £250k from WMFRA would be required to provide the initial funding for the CRP, subject to the Authority agreeing this as part of a Gain Share arrangement. It is envisaged that this funding will be used to fund resources for the Programme in the form of a Project Manager, Technical advisors and ICT costs. Any further funding requirements would be met through NFCC arrangements.
- 9.2 The initial funding arrangement would involve savings to the value of £250k from the national smoke alarm contract being returned to WMFRA. Based on anticipated volumes, the smoke alarm contract is anticipated to generate total annual savings of circa £500k. In order to recoup an up-front £250k

investment, approximately £83,000 per year over a three-year period would be required by WMFRA from the Gain Share.

10. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental implications.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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PHIL LOACH
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER