

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE**

**25 APRIL 2022**

**1. COLLABORATION AND TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE  
2022/23**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT Committee members note the content of the recent Strategic Briefing to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) as it relates to Collaboration and Transformation.
- 1.2 THAT Committee members consider areas of focus for a 2022/23 Collaboration and Transformation Committee Forward Plan.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 To provide an update on aspects of the Strategic Briefing provided to HMICFRS as part of the WMFS 2022 Inspection relevant to the work of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee.
- 2.3 To foster discussion amongst Committee members on the priorities for the Collaboration and Transformation Committee in 2022/23 aligned to the Strategic Direction for the Committee agreed in 2019.

**3. BACKGROUND**

**3.1 HMICFRS Strategic Briefing**

As part of the current HMICFRS Inspection, the Chief Fire Officer delivered the Strategic Briefing to the Lead Inspector

and their team on the 23 March 2022. This briefing was focused around how WMFS continues its transformation journey, framed around the revised Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) objectives. The briefing covered the progress the Service has made since the last inspection in 2018/2019 and how it is delivering new strategic objectives. Focus was placed upon progress towards an integrated and holistic health and wellbeing strategy, cultural development and skills competency in service provision, digital transformation to drive efficiency and effectiveness of employee and community engagement, quality assured and evidence decision making, sustainability of the Service Delivery Model.

Highlights of the Strategic Briefing relevant to Collaboration and Transformation have been included in the presentation delivered to the Committee.

From the presentation, the Committee are requested to note the improvement and efficiencies aspects of the transformation journey. Consideration should be given to how this journey should be communicated to stakeholders, both internal and external, and the challenges they bring for our workforce.

### **3.2 Areas for Consideration by the Committee for development of 2022/23 Forward Plan**

The role of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee is to support the Fire Authority's role and responsibility with regards to the strategic development and assurance of transformational collaborative working agreements (up to implementation) aligned to the 'Duty to Collaborate' (under the Policing and Crime Act 2017) and/or the delivery of the Authority' three-year rolling Strategy and annual Plan.

The Committee is expected to submit findings and recommendations to the Authority for consideration.

Following the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper, and with further policy papers expected within the coming months, including the long-awaited Fire Reform White Paper, there will be a range of new opportunities for WMFS to

collaborate with other bodies to make the communities of the West Midlands Safer, Stronger and Healthier. This is in addition to WMFS's existing legal duty to collaborate.

As highlighted within the Strategic Briefing, WMFS also remains committed to transformation and innovation in its approach to Prevention, Protection and Response, using new systems, technologies and approaches to maximise efficiency and effectiveness.

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 2022/23. Committee members may wish to suggest further areas of focus during discussion.

*Fig 1 – Areas for consideration for Collaboration and Transformation Forward Plan*

Topic	Detail
CRMP Projects	Ongoing oversight of the collaborative aspects of the various CRMP projects, such as our work with partners on
Fire Reform White Paper	Subject to publication, evaluation of the transformational and collaboration aspects of the Fire Reform Agenda from central government.
Blue Light Duty to Collaborate	Assessment of success of and opportunities for further collaboration with police and ambulance within the West Midlands
Digital Transformation	Ongoing oversight of WMFS Digital Transformation journey.
Regional and Family Group Collaboration within FRS.	Assessment of success of and opportunities for further collaboration with neighbouring and similar fire and rescue services (e.g. through Association of Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities - AMFRA).
West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Trailblazer Devolution	The forthcoming devolution deal, consequential of the Levelling Up White Paper, will see new powers and funding devolved to the West Midlands.

Deal/Levelling Up White Paper	Committee could explore opportunities for WMFS to collaborate in these new areas and participate in transformation in areas such as Transport, Housing and Community Safety.
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.
Serious Violence Duty	New Serious Violence Duty will be implemented as part of the Policing, Crime, Courts and Sentencing Bill, and require WMFS (and all FRS) to support the development and implementation of a strategy to combat serious violence alongside Police, LAs and others.
Health and Social Care	Opportunities to collaborate with the Health and Social Care reform agenda – especially in relation to our efforts around Reducing Health Inequalities (CRMP objective)
Environmental Sustainability	WMCA and National Government have set challenging targets for “Net Zero”, which will require significant transformation and collaboration as a service. Opportunities to explore new partnerships and provide oversight of a developing Sustainability Strategy.

### 3.3 **Development of 2022/23 Forward Plan**

Committee are asked to consider any areas from the above table and from the Strategic Briefing for further consideration during 2022/23. Officers will develop this into a Forward Plan for agreement by the Committee at its next meeting, which will also be used to develop agendas and commission reports for future meetings.

## 4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 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**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 This paper has no direct environmental implications

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Collaboration – Strategic Definition – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019

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

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CHIEF FIRE OFFICER