

Minutes of the Executive Committee

19 December 2017 at 1000 hours

Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham

Present: Councillor John Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Mohammed Idrees (Vice Chair)
Councillors Allcock, Aston, Hogarth, Sealey, P Singh

Apologies: Councillors Davies, Cartwright, Mottram

11/17 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

12/17 Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 12 June 2017

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2017, be approved as a correct record.

13/17 Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 7 August 2017

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 August 2017, be approved as a correct record.

14/17 National Fire Chief's Council Community Risk Programme

The Committee noted the details around the National Fire Chief Council's (NFCC) Community Risk Programme.

On 1 October 2017, the NFCC set out a series of commitments that will provide the basis of all engagement with stakeholders, guiding the objectives for the Central Programme Office, work plans and objectives for the co-ordinating committees.

The NFCC need to initiate the Community Risk Programme with a series of projects to assist the NFCC. The Chief Fire Officer has been appointed as the Programme Executive with technical experts also required to support project leads.

The NFCC will work with the Inspectorate to provide a benchmark and a toolkit for the Community Risk Management Programme, however this project requires resources. No single approach exists at present and the toolkit will enable the identification, assessment and mitigation strategies for community risks.

The Authority will benefit from this in its Integrated Risk Management Planning through accessing a consistent national methodology that will inform its delivery of Prevention, Protection and Response priorities to its communities.

The NFCC agreed for the CFO to approach the Authority for an initial tranche of funding so that that resources can be put in place to begin the Community Risk Programme (CRP).

The CRP is a three-year plan and initial deliverables will be provided in April 2018. The WMFS will be in the 2nd Tranche of Inspections and these are scheduled to take place in the late Summer/Autumn of 2018 and it is anticipated the toolkit will be embedded by this time and provide a more consistent approach to Integrated Risk Management for other services.

WMFRA agreement was required to provide the initial funding of £250,000 for the national project on the basis that there would be a repayment to the Authority at the rate of £83,000 per year or as a block at the end of the three-year period in a Gain Share arrangement.

This Gain Share would involve national savings from the collaborative procurement programme (Fire Commercial Transformation Programme), an example of which was the national contract for smoke detectors that West Midlands Fire Service had set up, which officers were confident could generate enough savings in isolation to repay the initial £250,000 funding by WMFRA.

A risk impact assessment had been considered and it was felt that with the appointment of CFO Phil Loach as the Programme Executive, there would be close scrutiny and monitoring of expenditure and appropriate contributions from Fire and Rescue Services via the national contracts to ensure value for money for WMFRA.

A number of Members enquired about the procurement savings being made on the national smoke alarm contract and the Treasurer confirmed that since the contract went 'live' in June 2017 there had been savings of £325,000 with the approximate total savings being £500,000 per year.

The details of the principles were yet to be agreed by the NFCC, but the Treasurer was comfortable that the Authority would be refunded through the NFCC Share arrangements.

The CFO stated that the initial funding to undertake the research was not intended to produce cashable savings but would validate the Authority's model of the 5 minute attendance time and research about vulnerability and survivability and would produce a body of evidence to influence other Services.

The Treasurer stated that WMFS were closely linked with the NFCC Fire Commercial Transformation programme and a range of contracts were being looked at across other Fire Services and tangible savings could be made through procurement and a mechanism was in place to repay the Authority.

The NFCC would need to establish the mechanism to repay the £250,000 initial funding over the three-year period which would come from the Authority's general reserves.

No other Authorities would be investing in the research, but it was noted that London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority had made a similar investment for the work on the National Operational Guidance and this had been repaid by the NFCC.

On the advice of the officers, the Committee unanimously agreed to the recommendation.

Resolved that the proposed funding arrangements for the NFCC Community Risk Programme be approved.

The meeting finished at 1023 hours.

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