

Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee

06 December 2021

Conducted as a public meeting at Headquarters and digitally via Microsoft Teams

Present: Councillor Dehar (Chair), Councillor Locke (Vice-Chair), Councillor Locke and Councillor Barlow.

Virtual: Councillor Iqbal, Councillor Miks, Councillor Singh, Simon Brake

Officers: Phil Loach (CFO), Karen Gowreesunker, Mike Griffiths, Phil Fellows, Stephen Timmington and Kirsty Tuffin.

Please note: Councillor Barlow was present from 10:50am. Councillor Hogarth was available but not in attendance due to experiencing technical issues.

06/21 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Kash Singh, Strategic Enabler for Digital and Data.

07/21 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

08/21 **Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee held on 06 September 2021**

Resolved:

1. That the Minutes of the Collaboration and Transformation Committee held on 06 September 2021 were approved as a correct record of proceedings.

09/21 **Collaboration and Transformation – Digital Data and Innovation**

Phil Loach, Chief Fire Officer, presented the Collaboration and Transformation – Digital Data and Innovation report that provided an update on the digital delivery through COVID,

introduced the West Midlands Fire Service Digital, Data and Innovation Strategy and provided examples of its value and introduced key projects that would shape and support the Service.

The Committee were advised that through COVID, excellent digital delivery had been implemented across the Service. This included providing staff with remote access to systems to ensure the transition to working from home had been rapidly implemented, as outlined within the report.

A short video had been developed, that introduced the West Midlands Fire Service Digital, Data and Innovation Strategy to the Service, was shared to Committee Members.

Feedback from Members of the Committee included the need for more basic IT information to be included within the video and to ensure it was accessible to those with special needs/those who have difficulty accessing technology. Phil Loach reassured Members that the video would be available in different languages, dyslexia assistance and the Service would support those with no IT equipment/internet as the move to a digital world developed. Following discussions on the commentary within the video, it was agreed that the voice-over of the video be looked into to ensure it engaged with those within the West Midlands.

Resolved:

1. That it be agreed that the considerable transformation and collaboration progress made and delivered through the COVID period be noted.
2. That it be agreed that the approach through the digital, data and innovation strategy and the positive impact it would have on staff and communities be noted.
3. That it be agreed that the strategy already delivered through Oracle Cloud Project, CRMP, Digital Transformation on Stations initiatives and innovation stations be noted.
4. That it be agreed that support be given to the Service's excellent potential for national collaboration opportunities and continued investment to deliver better, more efficient services to communities.

5. That it be agreed that the voice-over for the video be looked into to ensure it engaged with those within the West Midlands.

10/21

Outcome of the PCC Review – Phase 2

Karen Gowreesunker, Clerk to the Authority, provided a verbal update on the outcome of the PCC Review – Phase 2.

The Committee were advised that Phase 2 of the governments review into the role of the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) had been published at the end of July 2021. Phase 2 would not only expand on from Phase 1 it would seek to understand whether the powers of the PCC should be extended in relation to the role of the PCC and the functional powers of a Fire Authority. The outcome of Phase 2 had been anticipated in the new year and an update on this would be brought back to the Committee.

Resolved:

1. That it be agreed that the verbal discussion be noted.
2. That it be agreed that an update would be brought back to the Committee once the outcome of Phase 2 be provided.

11/21

Collaboration and Transformation Work Plan 2021-2022

Karen Gowreesunker, Clerk to the Authority, presented the Collaboration and Transformation Work Plan 2021-2022 that outlined the planned agenda items for future Collaboration and Transformation Committee meetings that align with the Committees Terms of Reference.

The Committee were advised that an update on the White Paper would be subject to its publication from the Home Office therefore, slight changes could be made to the work plan to reflect this. Once published an update would be provided to Committee.

Resolved:

1. That it be agreed that the Collaboration and Transformation Work Plan 2021-2022 be noted.

The meeting finished at 11:00 hours.

Kirsty Tuffin
Strategic Hub
0121 380 6906