

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	JOINT FIRE AND POLICE COMMITTEE		
DATE:	23RD AUGUST 2021	REPORT NO:	CFO/053/21
PRESENTING OFFICER	CFO GARRIGAN		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	DCFO SEARLE	REPORT AUTHOR:	AM PAUL MURPHY
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	RIA GROVES		
TITLE OF REPORT:	EMERGENCY SERVICES COLLABORATION - PROGRAMME UPDATE		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A:	FIRE AND POLICE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE
	APPENDIX B:	LOCAL COLLABORATION OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of progress to date with the Emergency Services Collaboration Programme.

Recommendation

2. That Members;
 - a. Note the content of this report
 - b. Instruct the Programme Board(s) of any strategic considerations which need to be taken into account.

Introduction and Background

3. In September 2015, the Joint Fire and Police Collaboration Committee agreed to explore potential collaboration opportunities between Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) and Merseyside Police. One of the work streams established was the Corporate Services Review (CSR).
4. To explore collaborative opportunities a Blue Light Collaboration Board along with a Corporate Services Programme Board was established supported by a joint Collaboration Team.
5. The Blue Light Collaboration Board was established to identify operational opportunities whereas the Corporate Services Board was to develop and scrutinise organisational and functional opportunities outside of the operational environment.

6. In August 2016, Deloitte Consultants commenced work with both organisations to review each functional area and produce a report with recommendations and suitable operating models to deliver the Corporate Services functions. Deloitte were requested to identify options for change for each individual organisation and as a collaborative endeavour. Deloitte have recommended that a collaborative model would maximise and provide the greatest benefits for the two organisations.
7. A joint Chief Officer Group Meeting took place on 20th December 2016 to discuss the areas of the Deloitte report which should be taken forward for further consideration and development. It was agreed that further work should be undertaken to consider all of the Corporate Services functions as a collaborative approach between both organisations.
8. On 6th February 2017, at a Joint Chief Officer Group meeting it was agreed that the further work of the Corporate Services Programme Board would initially focus on the Resources (HR, Finance, Procurement, Payroll and Pensions) and ICT functions. Chief Officers considered this further work and decided that in the first instance each organisation will undertake their own individual programmes of work for the Resources and ICT functions. This work was to seek to maximise value for money and increase efficiency and effectiveness.
9. In June 2017, the Corporate Services Programme Board agreed to consider areas of collaborative work that could be undertaken in the other functional areas. This was initially to focus on smaller pieces of work to help develop relationships and understanding between the two organisations.
10. In February 2019, Corporate Services Board members were asked to consider the following options:
 - Option 1 - Progress to a full shared service model as outlined within the Deloitte Report.
 - Option 2 - Continue to progress collaboration within all functional areas, with clear Terms of Reference.
 - Option 3 - Continue to progress collaboration within certain areas such as Estates and ICT where collaboration has been successful.
 - Option 4 - Stop any specific project work but allow functions to carry on 'business as usual'.
11. It was agreed that Option 2 would be progressed. Each functional area was to review their current work and develop their objectives for the next 12 months. It was agreed that the joint functional Leads from both organisations would present at future Corporate Service Programme Boards starting from 18th April 2019.
12. In February 2019, the Joint Fire and Police Collaboration Committee was re-established further to the Police and Crime Commissioner ('PCC') for Merseyside, at such time, withdrawing as a voting member of the Authority. The first meeting took place on 21st February 2019. Discussions took place regarding the frequency and membership of the Joint Fire and Police Collaboration

Committee meetings. It was suggested that it would be more beneficial if the meetings took place bi-annually rather than quarterly with Deputy Chief Fire Officer Nick Searle and Deputy Chief Constable Serena Kennedy co-chairing and attending rather than Chief Officers. An update was provided of the ongoing exploration of collaboration at the subsequent meeting on the 24th September 2019

13. In July 2020, during the COVID pandemic Deputy Chief Officers discussed the future of the Corporate Services Programme Board. Both Deputy Chief Officers agreed that the current format, with functional leads in attendance was working well and should be continued but with a review of the objectives and the strategic direction for the Corporate Services Programme Board. Membership of the Corporate Services Board was extended to NWAS
14. In May 2021, Deputy Chief Constable Ian Critchley was appointed co-chair along with Deputy Chief Fire Officer Nick Searle who jointly requested a scoping of workstreams for future collaboration, this was presented and agreed at the Blue Light Collaboration Board in July 2021.
15. In July 2021 Functional Leads were asked to present their short, medium and long term objectives to the Corporate Services Board, the Board acknowledged the proposals and agreed for the work to continue to progress.
16. Further to the appointment of the new PCC for Merseyside (Emily Spurrell) in May 2021 and the PCC's appointment to the Authority at the AGM in June 2021 and in agreement the Chair of the Authority and the PCC a meeting of this committee was arranged in order for officers to update the committee on the progress made in relation to the duties placed on both Services and in order to inform any future considerations.
17. The Terms of Reference for the Joint Fire and Police Collaboration Committee, the minutes of the previous Joint Fire and Police Collaboration Committee dated 24th September 2019, along with a copy of the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service Local Collaboration Overview (which summarises collaborative opportunities and projects between Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and other partners) have been attached to this report or agenda.

Equality and Diversity Implications

18. Any identified deliverables emanating for the programme boards will be subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment throughout the development process and compliance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 will be maintained.

Staff Implications

19. It is recognised that there is the potential for significant impact, however this cannot be fully gauged until further analysis has taken place through opportunity assessments.

20. MFRS and Merseyside Police will enter into consultation with all relevant stakeholders and representative bodies.

Legal Implications

21. While areas of future collaboration continue to be explored any such proposals will require advice on the implications to the Authority from a legal viewpoint.
22. The Collaboration Programme Team will liaise closely with the Legal Teams in each organisation. The Legal Teams will monitor changes and progress of legislation and advise the Collaboration Team accordingly.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

23. Cost benefit analysis will be an integral part of all outcomes as part of the Collaboration Programme.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

24. Each project work stream will be delivered in line with recognised project methodology.
25. A risk register has been created which will be maintained by the Collaboration Programme Team.

Contribution to Our Mission: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

26. The communities of Merseyside will continue to benefit from the best possible protection from its' Blue Light Services and put the community at the heart of everything we do.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

MFRS Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service