

Strategic Fire Alliance Update

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact Rod Hammerton
Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201 or Guy Williams, Area Manager, on 01743
260299.

1 Purpose of Report

This report updates Members on progress in delivering the Strategic Fire Alliance between Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to:

- a) Note progress to date; and
- b) Grant approval for Officers to prepare Alliance option appraisals.

3 Background

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority approved a plan to create a Strategic Fire Alliance between Shropshire and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Services, at its meeting on 10 October 2018. This Alliance was also approved by Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service's Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 12 September 2018.

In endorsing the creation of the Alliance, both Fire Authorities directed senior officers from their respective Services to prepare a joint programme plan to achieve the aims of the Alliance.

Since then, good progress has been made in setting up governance arrangements and in identifying key priorities for action.

4 Progress

The Strategic Alliance Board provides high level strategic governance for the Alliance and consists of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of both Fire Authorities and both Chief Fire Officers. To date the Board has agreed the terms of governance that are set out in the Strategic Alliance Plan.

The Board has also identified and recommended three priority projects;

- 1 Fire Control
Scoping future requirements for ensuring a resilient Command & Control function.
- 2 Integrated Risk Management Plan / Community Risk Management Plan
Reviewing options for aligning integrated risk management planning processes.
- 3 Information and Communications Technology
Developing organisational arrangements for provision of Information and Communications Technology functions.

At the time of writing, it is anticipated that these three priorities will be confirmed at the next meeting of the Strategic Alliance Board.

Meetings of the Strategic Alliance Programme Delivery Board have also been held (24 September and 5 November 2018). The Programme Delivery Board manages the overall programme of change and is led by the two Chief Fire Officers and supported by the Programme Manager, Jean Cole.

Over this period, the Programme Manager has visited Hampshire and Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services to identify and assess good practice that will support the evolution of the Alliance.

The Programme Delivery Board will be exploring the options available for progressing the three identified priorities and appropriate Project leads have been nominated to prepare options for appraisal by the Board.

5 Summary

The creation of the Strategic Fire Alliance is a major step towards collective resilience, capacity and sustainability for both Services into the next decade. In the last quarter, governance arrangements have been agreed and key priorities set out.

To progress this further, Members are requested to note developments to date and to give approval for officers to proceed with preparing option appraisals for the key priority projects.

A similar update report is also being presented to Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority to gain their authorisation for officers to proceed. Further updates will be brought to Members as work progresses.

6 Capacity

Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service will nominate staff to carry out the various option appraisals. Staff will continue to engage with external partners carrying out or supporting reviews.

7 Collaboration / Partnership Working

This Alliance is also supporting the ongoing collaboration of the Blue Light Collaboration Group incorporating West Mercia Police.

8 Community Safety

There are no community safety impacts arising from this report.

9 Environmental

There are no environmental impacts arising from this report.

10 Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report. An e-EQIA is not, therefore, required.

Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as part of any recommended project management process arising from the Alliance.

11 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

12 Health and Safety

There are no health and safety impacts arising from this report.

Risk Assessments will be undertaken as part of any recommended project management process arising from the Alliance

13 Human Rights (including Data Protection)

There are no human rights impacts arising from this report.

14 ICT

There are no ICT impacts arising from this report.

An independent ICT review is currently underway to support the development of the Alliance.

15 Legal Comment

There is a legal requirement for Governance consideration

16 Public Value / Service Delivery

There are no public value or service delivery impacts arising from this report.

The proposals support the improvement of capacity and resilience.

17 Reputation

There are no reputational impacts arising from this report.

18 Security

There are no security impacts arising from this report.

19 Training

There are no training impacts arising from this report.

20 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

21 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.