



Minutes

Executive Committee

Date: 20 September 2019

Time: 11.30 am

Venue: Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Birkenshaw

Present: Councillor S Tulley (in the chair), G Almas (as substitute for Councillor D O'Donovan), R Downes (as substitute for Councillor J Sunderland), R Grahame, P Harrand and A Tait

In Attendance: None

Apologies: Councillor D O'Donovan and J Sunderland

12 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 August 2019 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

13 Urgent items

None.

14 Admission of the public

There were no items which required the exclusion of the public and press.

15 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest made in any matter under consideration at the meeting.

16 West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service – collaboration update

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Service Support which updated the Committee on current and future collaboration initiatives.

A prioritised list of collaborative opportunities had been approved by the Tri-Service Collaboration Board at a meeting on 14 February 2019 and detail of progress made in each area was included in the report now submitted as follows;

- Shared fuel – a national contract for the purchase of fuel had previously been entered into by West Yorkshire Police which was not available to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS). It was proposed that work on this issue be not progressed.
- Occupational Health – work had been scoped on the Employee Assistance programme (EAP) but would be unlikely to progress due to required security arrangements and the confidential nature of policing – the resolution of which would incur additional cost to the Authority. It was proposed that no further collaboration be undertaken on this workstream.
- Shared training venues and training provision – work had been suspended pending the appointment of a new Head of Operational Training but it was reported that the identification of opportunities to collaborate in areas such as training facilities, training course, equipment and training staff had since commenced.
- Driver training – collaboration had been in place for 12 months and was currently being reviewed to assess its effectiveness, value and benefits realisation. Ongoing dialogue continued with a view to identifying any new areas for collaboration.
- Community engagement – Members were advised that a 999 Academy was currently being developed to offer an 18-month course to 16 – 18 year olds with a view to the development of skills and attributes to become inclusive and supportive members of the community. The Community Volunteers programme operated within a shared database and joint efforts would be undertaken to recruit more volunteers to assist with community events and community engagement for which a Service Level Agreement was being drafted. This would complement the existing WYFRS Community Engagement strategy.
- Shared estates – WYFRS were undertaking feasibility study across its estate and opportunities for collaboration would be considered during this process.

It was reported that a small investment of £5,000 had been made in the 999 Volunteers programme to cover start-up costs. Collaboration with the programme would require a time commitment from WYFRS staff. No other significant cost implications had been identified at this stage but any changes to costs or benefits realisations would be reported back to the Committee as appropriate.

Members were advised that new opportunities for collaboration would be identified by the Tri-Service Executive Committee and scoped prior to the development of a new programme of opportunities.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

17 Memorandum of understanding – forced entry cause for concern

The Director of Service Support submitted a report which sought approval for a continuation of the 'Forced entry cause for concern' protocol pending the outcome of a review and submission of a valuation report following the expiry of the current six-month trial period.

It was reported that the trial had commenced on 6 May 2019 and was due to cease on 6 November 2019. Approval had been given previously by this Committee for the six-month trial period. It was proposed that the period be extended to allow continuation of operation of the protocol whilst a post-trial review was undertaken. Initial indications were that the protocol had been very beneficial to the community and people requiring assistance and the effectiveness and efficiency of our partners (West Yorkshire Police and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service) had been improved with minimal impact upon West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The full evaluation report, including any financial implications, would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED

- a) That the 'Forced entry cause for concern protocol' six-month trial between West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, West Yorkshire Police and the Yorkshire Ambulance service be extended pending the outcome of a review and submission of an evaluation report; and
- b) That the final evaluation report be produced as soon as practicable after 6 November 2019.

18 West Yorkshire Tri-service Collaboration – unmanned aerial vehicles

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Support which sought approval for the signing of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by the Chief Fire Officer which enabled the shared use and operation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle capabilities by West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS), the West Yorkshire Police (WYP) and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS).

Members were advised that WYFRS and WYP had their own UAV capability and, under the MoU, YAS would be able to utilise the provision from either of the other services.

It was reported that each party would bear its own costs and expenses incurred in conducting training and assessment with regard to the UAV capability and all parties should remain liable for any losses or liabilities incurred due to their own or their own employees' actions. Under the terms of the MoU no party would be liable for any loss suffered by another party as a result of the shared capability.

Members were further reminded that WYFRS had two UAVs and, as they were not a firefighting / rescue resource, should it be that both were unavailable, it would not be detrimental to the resolution of an incident. WYFRS would not incur any significant costs as a result of the implementation of the MoU.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding – Unmanned Aerial Vehicles by the Chief Fire Officer subject to all legal elements being agreed.

Chair