

**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Item No 8**

**MEETING: 16 DECEMBER 2013**

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**SUBJECT: JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES INTEROPERABILITY PROGRAMME  
(JESIP)**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND THE CLERK TO THE  
AUTHORITY**

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**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report provides an update for Members regarding the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) and the progress Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) has made towards compliance with central government requirements.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Blue light services, including fire, police and ambulance will usually be the first to arrive at the scene of a rapidly developing emergency. To achieve the best possible outcomes, all responders need to be able to work together effectively as soon as they arrive at the scene.
- 2.2 The requirement for a joint response is not new to the emergency services and is already in place for routine day to day working. However the findings and lessons identified by many public inquiries and inquests have highlighted cases where the emergency services should have worked better and shown much greater levels of co-operation and co-ordination.
- 2.3 Interoperability is defined as the extent to which organisations can work together coherently as a matter of routine. To ensure interoperability exists between the emergency services, all responder organisations must make certain their single service response arrangements and local procedures are in alignment with the JESIP principles and in accordance with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 Guidance Emergency Response and Recovery.
- 2.4 Blue light responders need to be able to demonstrate that their commanders at every level have received appropriate interoperability training in both their preparation and response arrangement to ensure the highest possible levels of joint working.
- 2.5
- 2.6

- 2.7 With appropriate training and exercising between the emergency services, as well as other category 1 and 2 responders, the joint response will be significantly more effective in saving lives and reducing harm.

### 3 **TRAINING**

- 3.1 JESIP Training began in October 2013 with a series of 'Train the Trainer' programmes which were designed to provide local in service trainers with knowledge and understanding of each course content and structure and to identify ways to successfully respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by joint emergency services training.
- 3.2 TWFRS trainers are now working with police and ambulance partners to deliver joint training at a local level.
- 3.3 By jointly training with blue light partners, TWFRS operational staff will enhance their understanding of the role, responsibility and capability of other emergency services, which is the key element of successful interoperability.
- 3.4 TWFRS provide the regional lead to the Chief Fire Officer's Association (CFOA) National Operational Committee, working directly with the national JESIP leads and shaping JESIP training to ensure it is proportionate and deliverable.
- 3.5 All Tactical and Operational Commanders within TWFRS will be trained to the level required by the JESIP doctrine by September 2014, which is the date the Home Secretary expects the training phase of JESIP to be complete.
- 3.6 The following table identifies the number of officers within each of the North East fire and rescue services to be trained in the initial development phase.

<b>Service</b>	<b>Operational Course</b>	<b>Tactical Course</b>
Tyne & Wear FRS	22	6
Northumberland FRS	16	3
Durham & Darlington FRS	24	6
Cleveland FB (estimated)	24	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>19</b>



#### **4 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 A risk assessment has been undertaken to ensure that the risk to the Authority has been minimised as far as practicable. The JESIP programme is designed to improve the joint operations of blue light services therefore the risk to the authority has been assessed as low.

#### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Whilst existing resources will need to be used to undertake the training and exercising necessary to embed the JESIP doctrine in TWFRS, it is not envisaged there will be any new financial implications for the Authority

#### **6 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report.

#### **7 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

#### **8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Authority is recommended to:

- a) Receive further reports as appropriate.
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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The under mentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- Civil Contingencies Act (2004)