

**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Item No. 6**

**MEETING: 16 OCTOBER 2017**

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**SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF INTENT: NORTH EAST FRS COLLABORATION**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE (THE CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY) AND THE STRATEGIC FINANCE OFFICER**

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**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval to enter into a formal Statement of Intent for Collaboration between Tyne & Wear (TWFRS), Northumberland (NFRS) and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS).

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members will be aware that the Authority has for many years supported a strategic objective to collaborate with a number of agencies, including other Emergency Services and Local Authority partners. The subsequent duty to collaborate under the Policing and Crime Act 2017, has seen the development of more formalised agreements.
- 2.2 A formalised agreement was enacted in June 2017 setting out a joint statement of intent between, OPCC, Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service, to further enhance collaboration to; Improve Outcomes to local communities, Reduce Demand and provide Better Value for Money.
- 2.3 Over the twelve months since formalising collaboration, partners have embarked upon over thirty work streams / activities, set against the nine areas of business set out in the Statement of Intent, progress against which was presented to members in July 2017 (Min No 20/2017 refers)
- 2.4 Further to the above in June 2017 the Fire Authority approved the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) request to become a member of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority, to further enhance collaboration (Min No 6/2017 refers).

### **3 Collaboration with the Fire and Rescue Services**

- 3.1 In seeking to further explore collaboration opportunities, discussions between the CFO's of TWFRS, CDDFRS and NFRS have reached a point where a formalised collaboration agreement is recommended. Appendix A sets out such an agreement for Members consideration.
- 3.2 Members will note that the agreement encompasses the three Fire and Rescue Services whose combined borders align with the geographical area of Durham Constabulary (DC) and Northumbria Police (NP). The collaboration arrangements between FRS and each respective OPCC and Police Force are currently covered by separate formalised agreements.
- 3.3 In keeping with the principles of Police and Fire collaboration, the three Fire and Rescue Services would seek to promote the following aims:
- Deliver better value for money - Producing quantifiable efficiencies;
  - Provide improved outcomes - Maintaining or improving the services to local people and communities;
  - Reduce demand - Contributing towards strategic objectives of decreasing risk in communities by reducing demand on services;
  - Increased resilience.
- 3.4 To ensure appropriate governance and monitoring of progress, it is intended that a work programme will be established to identify key projects for collaboration which are likely to include areas such as:
- Fire Investigation;
  - Health, Fitness and Wellbeing;
  - Water and hydrant management;
  - Workforce Development including:
    - Recruitment;
    - Talent management and succession planning;
    - Cross service secondments.
- 3.5 The collaboration agreement is non-binding and also does not restrict TWFRS, or any of the signatories, in entering into collaboration agreements with other organisations.

### **4 NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 Subject to members approval to enter in to the 'Collaboration Agreement – Statement of Intent', as set out in appendix A, the CFO will make the necessary arrangements with CDDFRS and NFRS for the signing of the agreement and progression of a work programme with both Northumberland and Durham FRS's.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report. Any future savings and outcomes relating to the proposed agreement will be reflected within the Authority's MTFS and specific committee reports. Analysis of value for money will be subject to future reports to members.

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

- 6.1 The principles of collaborative working support the Authority's drive to promote equality, diversity and inclusion.

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

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

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Authority is recommended to:
- a) Note the content of this report; and
  - b) Agree the draft Collaboration Agreement between TWFRS, CDDFRS and NFS, as attached in Appendix A.

