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 preparing priority projects developed by the Strategic Fire Alliance between Shropshire and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Services.

2   Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to note the report and the progress it details.

3   Background

At the Fire Authority meeting on 18 December 2018, Members were informed that the Strategic Alliance Board had agreed terms of governance and a joint programme plan. The Board comprises the Chairs/Vice Chairs of both Fire Authorities and both Chief Fire Officers.

The Board also recommended that options be prepared for three priority projects, and your Authority gave approval for officers to prepare these jointly with officers from Hereford & Worcester FRS.

The priority projects agreed were as follows;

1   **Fire Control:** scoping the future requirements for ensuring a resilient Command & Control function.

2   **Integrated / Community Risk Management Plan (IRMP/CRMP):** reviewing options for aligning integrated risk management planning processes.

3   **Information & Communications Technology (ICT):** developing organisational arrangements for the provision of ICT functions.

4   Progress Update.

Good progress has been made on all three priority projects with project teams, lead managers and work programmes in place. Progress is reported regularly to the Strategic Alliance Board and Programme Delivery Board. This report provides Members with an overview of each work programme and the next steps over the coming months. Members will also receive further updates as the projects develop.

A summary of progress for each project is set out below.

Fire Control

The project is led by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer of Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) as Senior Responsible Owner. He is supported by the Head of Corporate Services at Hereford & Worcester FRS and the Head of Transformation & Collaboration at Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, plus a dedicated Project Manager from Hereford & Worcester FRS.

The team have reviewed overall objectives, stakeholder involvement and the communications process. They have also met with key managers in the Fire Alliance Programme Delivery Board to review risks, issues, constraints, dependencies and long-list options.

Officers continue to research lessons learnt from other similar ongoing or completed projects within the Fire Sector as well as other emergency services and public sector organisations. In addition, officers have met with the British Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (BAPCO) to explore supplier availability, capacity and capability to deliver a new Mobilising System should that be required.

IRMP/CRMP

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer of Shropshire FRS has been appointed as the Senior Responsible Owner for this project and the Head of Corporate Services at Hereford & Worcester FRS has been appointed to the Project Manager role.

The intention is to prepare separate Community/ and Integrated/ Risk Management Plans 2021-25 for each Service, but to align processes where possible. Two main opportunities for alignment have been identified:

a)   **Identifying Risk**
      At the beginning of April 2019, three Review Workshops were held with senior managers from both Services to examine approaches to the three main functions; response, protection and prevention. Each Workshop examined similarities and differences and considered how approaches might be standardised across each Service, while ensuring both Services remain agile to manage individual risks differently.

The Workshop sessions will continue throughout the summer to identify further potential risks and opportunities and to identify appropriate performance indicators and evaluation criteria.

b)   Analysing Data
Each Service currently uses different suppliers to model risk data. Officers have met with both suppliers to gain an understanding of their risk models and any other products that could potentially assist with resource allocation versus demand in the areas of prevention and protection. Officers are considering the data modelling requirements further and expect to prepare a tender to go out to the market in the late summer of 2019.

ICT

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer of Shropshire FRS has been appointed as the Senior Responsible Owner for this project and the Head of Corporate Services at Hereford & Worcester FRS has been appointed to the Project Manager role.

An independent review of current ICT provision has been carried out. The review looked at ICT systems, processes and resources across both organisations. It identified potential areas where skills and resources could be shared to help drive efficiencies, improve resilience and reduce duplication.

Following the review, the Fire Alliance Programme Delivery Board approved the appointment of a Strategic ICT Change Manager on a 3-year fixed term contract.

Meetings with ICT staff from both Services and representative bodies (Unison) have also taken place to inform staff of the high-level outcomes of the independent review and the next steps, including discussions on ongoing engagement and communication in the process.

The recruitment process for the Strategic ICT Change Manager will commence shortly, led by Shropshire FRS supported by Hereford & Worcester FRS.

5   Capacity

The timescales for the delivery of these three workstreams ensures that resources have and will continue to be allocated to the task. This use of Shropshire FRS resources is likely to increase as the programme develops.

6   Collaboration / Partnership Working

This is a strategic collaboration that is forming the backbone for more widespread partnership working.

7   Community Safety

There are no community safety impacts arising from this report.

8   Environmental

There are no environmental impacts arising from this report.

9   Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report.
An e-EQIA is not, therefore, required. Each project will complete full equality
assessments as the projects develop.

10   Financial Implications

There may be financial implications arising from this report however they will
be considered within each project and communicated appropriately.

11   Health and Safety

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

12   Human Rights (including Data Protection)

There are no human rights impacts arising from this report.

13   ICT

The ICT team will be at the forefront of Alliance working especially with the
Change Programme

14   Legal Comment

There are no legal implications arising from this report. Any legal impact will
be assessed and addressed as part of each individual project.

15   Public Value / Service Delivery

There are no public value or service delivery impacts arising from this report.
The Alliance is designed to enhance capacity and resilience within SFRS.

16   Reputation

A reputational impact arising from this report is the risk of failing to deliver
these first significant Alliance projects.

17   Security

There are no security impacts arising from this report.

18   Training

There are no significant training impacts arising from this report however it should be noted that the new ICT Change Manager will require induction and appropriate support.

19   Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

20   Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.