

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on 29 April 2019

PROPOSED GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS OF THE BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION PROGRAMME WITH THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (Appendix 1 refers)

Contact for further information: Mark Nolan, Clerk and Monitoring Officer.
Telephone: 01772 866720

Executive Summary

This report details the proposed governance arrangements of the Blue Light Collaboration Programme. This proposal outlines the role of the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) and the provision for dealing with input from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) whilst ensuring that the CFA retains ultimate decision making responsibilities in accordance with the Lancashire Fire Services (Combination Scheme) Order 1997, the CFA's Constitutional, Procedural and Contractual Standing Orders (approved as at 18 June 2012) and the current relevant CFA Scheme of Delegation (last amended following a report to the Audit Committee on 24 July 2018.)

The operational scrutiny aspects of this function were outlined by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer in a report which went to the Planning Committee on 18 March 2019. Attached as appendix 1.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to note and endorse the report and governance model.

Background

Following a recent meeting between the CFA Chairman and the Police and Crime Commissioner it is proposed that governance and scrutiny of Blue Light Collaboration will be in the format of a bi-annual meeting of the CFA and OPCC (the Collaborative Working Group, CWG.) It is proposed that two representatives from each of the CFA and OPCC will attend these meetings along with the strategic leads for each of LFRS (Deputy Chief Fire Officer) and Lancashire Constabulary (Deputy Chief Constable); these officers will provide the required strategic updates with support from operational leads as required.

The status of the bi-annual meeting will be that of a Collaborative Working Group.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer, (currently vacant as at 30.04.19) and Deputy Chief Constable, Sunita Gamblin as Programme Sponsors continue to provide scrutiny of the operational work areas and subsequent reports.

The Blue Light Collaboration Programme Board meetings, co- chaired by Area Manager Ben Norman, LFRS and Superintendent Karen Edwards, Lancashire Constabulary continue to deliver project management related control to the Programme. At a meeting held on the 30 January 2019 they received updates from respective operational work stream leads.

It is proposed that the bi-annual meeting (Collaborative Working Group meeting; CWG) with the OPCC will be attended by the Chairman and the Clerk to the Authority on behalf of the CFA, together with the Deputy Chief Fire Officer as strategic lead from LFRS and the Deputy Chief Constable on behalf of Lancashire Constabulary. It is likely that the OPCC will be represented by the Commissioner and the Chief Executive.

The CWG meeting will provide oversight of the collaboration activity. It will also ensure the relevance to the business of the respective organisations and ensure alignment in the core roles of both organisations. It can also raise any further areas for collaboration for consideration within the programme of work. The role of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer will be integral to the scrutiny of the process and the presence of the Chairman (with support from the Clerk to the Authority) will be vital to oversee plans which will ultimately be ratified or endorsed at meetings of the full Authority.

A report of the discussions from the bi-annual Collaborative Working Group will be made available to the Authority's Planning Committee at the first Planning Committee meeting following the meeting of the Collaborative Working Group. The Planning Committee will if required make decisions on any suggestions or initiatives arising from the report, provided the power for making those decisions falls within the Planning Committee's Terms of Reference.

The Planning Committee will not be able to make decisions based on the suggestions or initiatives of the Collaborative Working Group if they are matters which are reserved for decision by the full Authority, only those areas in accordance with the Authority's Terms of Reference will be required.

For the avoidance of doubt matters which are reserved for decision by the full Authority are as follows:

- (a) The approval of the budget and the determination of the precept;
- (b) Assessment of each Constituent Council's contribution to the Combined Fire Service Fund;
- (c) Arrangements for the proper administration of the Authority's financial affairs;
- (d) Matters of major policy or of new principle including such matters arising out of any Sub-Committee's terms of reference;
- (e) The making of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and any matter reserved to the Authority thereunder;
- (f) The general structure of the Authority's administrative organisation including delegation of powers;
- (g) The constitution and terms of reference of Committees;
- (h) The appointment of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of committees;
- (i) The appointment of Chief Fire Officer to the Authority;
- (j) The appointment of Clerk and Treasurer to the Authority;
- (k) The external relations of the Authority;
- (l) Such other matters as the Authority may from time to time determine.

Business Risk

Due to the change of legislation and expectations of the HMICFRS inspectorate arrangements LFRS is required to provide greater clarity on the evidence captured as a part of ongoing and future collaboration opportunities. The structure proposed will limit unnecessary activity resulting in opportunity cost to the Service.

Sustainability or Environmental Impact

None identified at this scope phase.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None identified at this scope phase.

HR Implications

Recruitment completed of a joint Programme Administrator for an initial period of 12 months. Lancashire Constabulary is the employer and LFRS will fund 50% of the post during 2018/19. The cost to the Authority of this post will be confirmed as soon as the information is available.

Financial Implications

Interim costs such as staff training and programme management will be met from existing budgets on an equal share basis, resulting in potential opportunity cost to the Service

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
Report to the Planning Committee	19.03.19	Justin Johnston Tel. 01772 866801
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		