

THAMES VALLEY FIRE CONTROL SERVICE



SUBJECT	TVFCS MEMBERS WORKSHOP SUMMARY – 16 SEPTEMBER 2021
PRESENTED TO:	JOINT COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	16 DECEMBER 2021
LEAD OFFICER	JIM POWELL, AREA MANAGER / SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER RBFRS
EXEMPT INFORMATION	NONE
ACTION	DECISION

1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Following agreement by members in September 2020 –that the Joint Committee meet formally in July and December and that workshops are held in March and September each year- an online members workshop was held on 16 September 2021
- 1.2 This report presents a summary of that workshop and the associated output.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

That Joint Committee:

- 2.1 **AGREE** the contents of the report as an accurate record of the business conducted at the workshop.

3. **REPORT**

- 3.1 On 16 September 2021, an on-line members workshop was held to consider a range of items regarding the future direction and development of the Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS).
- 3.2 The workshop was attended by: Cllr Angus Ross, Cllr Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey, Cllr Steven Lambert, Cllr Neil Fawcett, Cllr Glynis Phillips, CFO

Jason Thelwell, CFO Rob MacDougall, CFO Wayne Bowcock, ACFO Jo Bowcock, AM Jim Powell, AM Mike Adcock, Graham Britten, Asif Hussain, Tony Vincent, Ryan Maslen, GM Simon Harris

3.3 **TVFCS and Covid-19**

- 3.4 The first presentation explored how TVFCS has managed and adapted to working arrangements during the pandemic. The learning included:
- 3.5 The benefits of maintaining a disciplined and stringent approach to hygiene practices adopted as part of the response to Covid, particularly in a small staff group that operates in a controlled environment and;
- 3.6 A number of ongoing benefits arising from adjusted working practices that continue to benefit both staff and the organisation and that this should build a platform to review current working practices including flexible working patterns and crewing resilience.
- 3.7 TVFCS managers and staff will continue to deploy the hygiene arrangements for the foreseeable future in conjunction with the full range of health and wellbeing measures currently in place.
- 3.8 Senior Responsible Officers (SRO) have already begun to explore options around working patterns and resilience and will continue to build on these and provide an update to Members at the workshop in March.
- 3.9 Members requested that Simon Harris pass on to his team the Joint Committees thanks for the commitment of all staff and the way the service had adapted and provided seamless full control service during the pandemic. This has been completed.
- ### 3.10 **Future expansion**
- 3.11 Members and officers noted the complexity of engaging in additional collaborative partnerships, particularly in light of the pressures on capacity in the coming 2-3 years. Discussion centred on the need to provide more strategic clarity on the specific areas to explore e.g. fire/fire, fire/police etc. in order to enable SROs to move forward and focus on developing specific plans.
- 3.12 To support this in the first instance, SROs will coordinate a focus session with Principal Officers to facilitate a discussion to shape the required strategic clarity.
- 3.13 JCG chair, AM Jim Powell will also work with partners through the Thames Valley Interoperability board to explore strategic intent in relation to shared control functions. This is tabled for the January meeting.
- 3.14 Furthermore, in relation to income generation, the TVFCS Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) lists a number of third party income arrangements at schedule 12. This is primarily focused on agreements with Alarm Monitoring Organisations. Officers are conducting a review of these arrangements in order to update the IAA where necessary, identify areas for increased

efficiencies and explore market opportunities. Officers will bring forward a paper at the next meeting to provide members with oversight of these arrangements.

3.15 Overview of capital provision

3.16 Members noted proposals for the 2022/23 Annual capital expenditure programme and long term forecast. This included a number of planning assumptions linked to the potential expenditure from the renewals account.

3.17 Members asked that these were reviewed as part of the TVFCS budget and this is included within the budget papers as part of the December meeting.

3.18 Members also noted a number of stipulations contained in the TVFCS Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) that potentially constrained decision making, particularly for Officers and SROs.

3.19 As requested, SROs will consult service monitoring officers and legal teams to review the IAA in respect of the comments above and scope potential areas for review, developing appropriate proposals for the Joint Committee to consider. This is currently planned for Q4 2021/22 and SROs will provide an update at the March workshop.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH THE TVFCS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

4.1 This report complies with clause 4 of the IAA – ‘Principles of Collaboration’.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None identified at this time.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None identified at this time. Any proposed changes to the IAA as described at 3.18 will be duly considered by services legal representatives.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None identified at this time .

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None identified at this time.

9. CONTRIBUTION TO SERVICE AIMS

9.1 As stated in the TVFCS IAA schedule 2: ‘Primary objectives’:

9.2 To satisfy the core functions of the Fire Authorities as defined in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004

9.3 To satisfy the statutory duty of all the Fire Authorities as category one responders as defined in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004

- 9.4 To improve the resilience of the control room function
- 9.5 To provide the capability for future expansion of TVFCS with other agencies or clients.

10. PRINCIPAL CONSULTATION

- 10.1 Chief Fire Officers
- 10.2 Monitoring Officer BMKFA, RBFA
- 10.3 Joint Coordinating Group.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Outputs from TVFCS Joint Committee members workshop 1 July 2020 – presented 21 September 2021.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 None

13. CONTACT DETAILS

- 13.1 AM Jim Powell powellj@rbfrs.co.uk 07774215664