



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

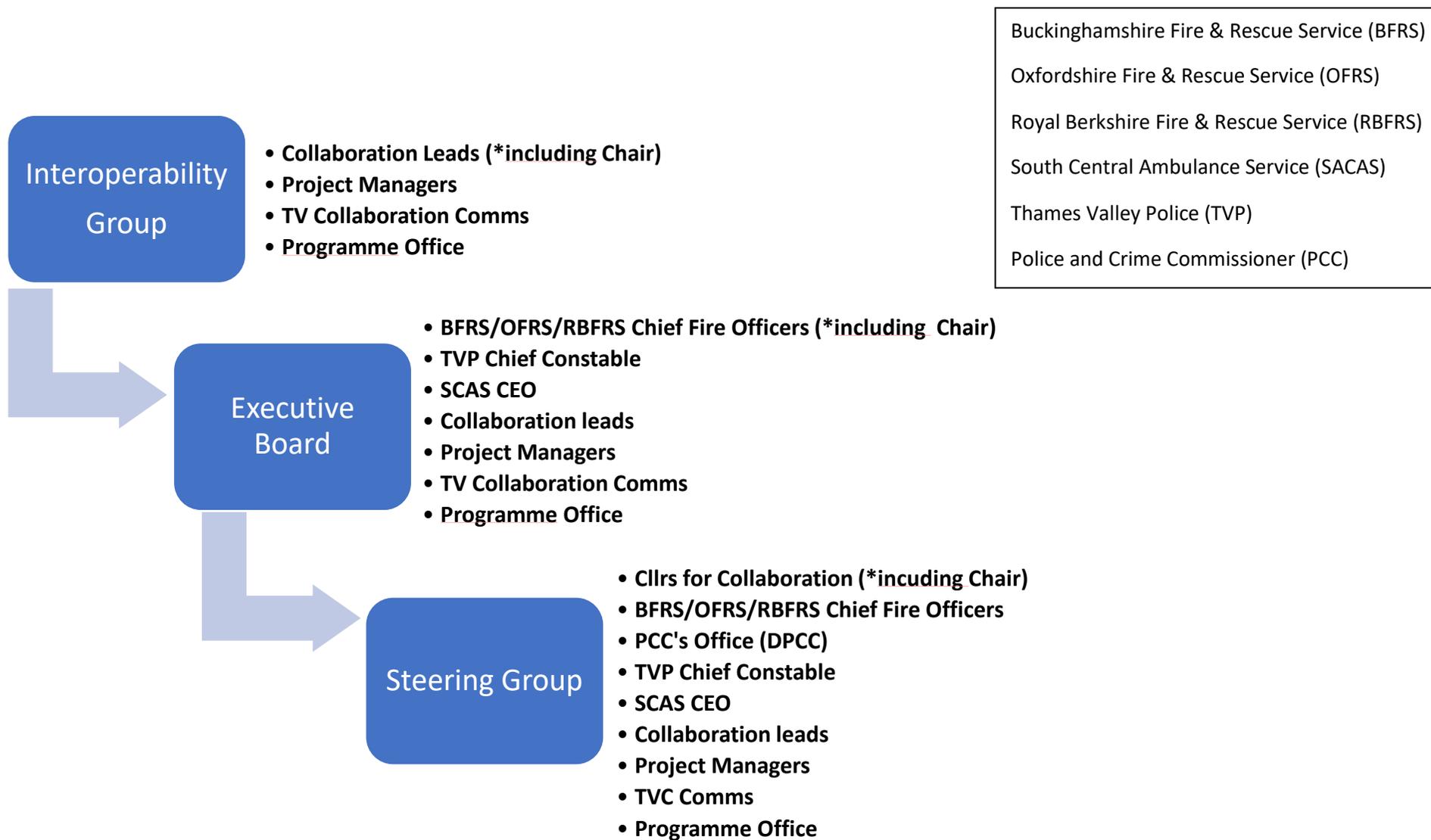
MEETING	Overview and Audit Committee
DATE OF MEETING	22 July 2020
OFFICER	Calum Bell, Head of Protection and Assurance
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Lesley Clarke
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Emergency Services Collaboration in the Thames Valley
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>This paper provides an update for the Committee on the ongoing work and key achievements that have been delivered through collaboration between the Blue Light Emergency Services within the Thames Valley.</p> <p>The Thames Valley Collaboration Board is made up of five key stakeholders: Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service (BFRS); Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service (OFRS); Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service (RBFRS); South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) and Thames Valley Police (TVP). The Collaboration structure consists of three tiers of governance: Interoperability Group; Executive Board; and Steering Group. The Governance Structure and Processes can be seen in more detail in Appendix A and B.</p> <p>The programme consists of five main projects: Operational Alignment; Fire Protection; Blue Light Estates; Procurement; and Workforce Reform.</p> <p><u>Operational Alignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy - integrating operational doctrine aligned to National Operational Guidance (NOG) and working with partner agencies to resolve incidents classified under the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) protocols. • Equipment - not just the savings from purchasing the same equipment but the benefits from aligning training, technical notes and operational use. • Mobilising - borderless, reduction in the number of vehicle movements, Relief crews, Control room actions etc. • Training - consistent approach to training materials and training outcomes to enable crews from the three fire rescue services to operate seamlessly at incidents. <p><u>Fire Protection</u></p>

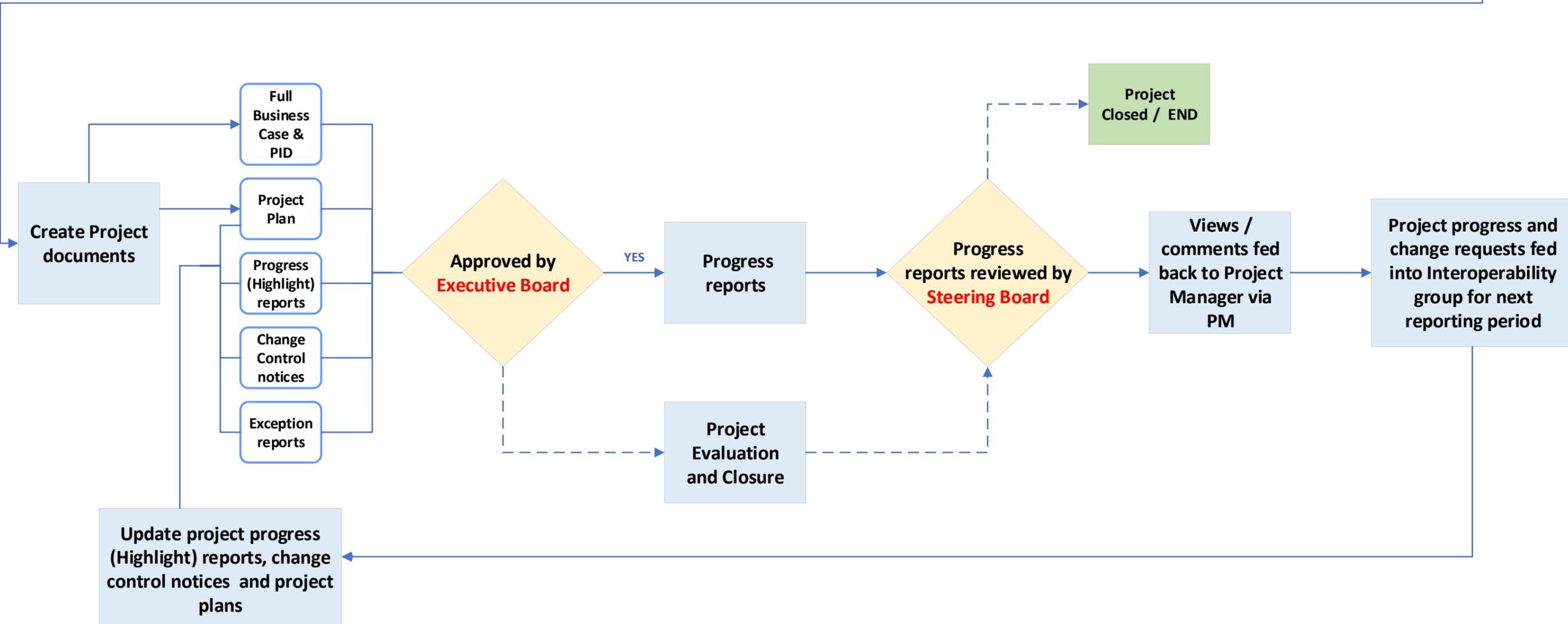
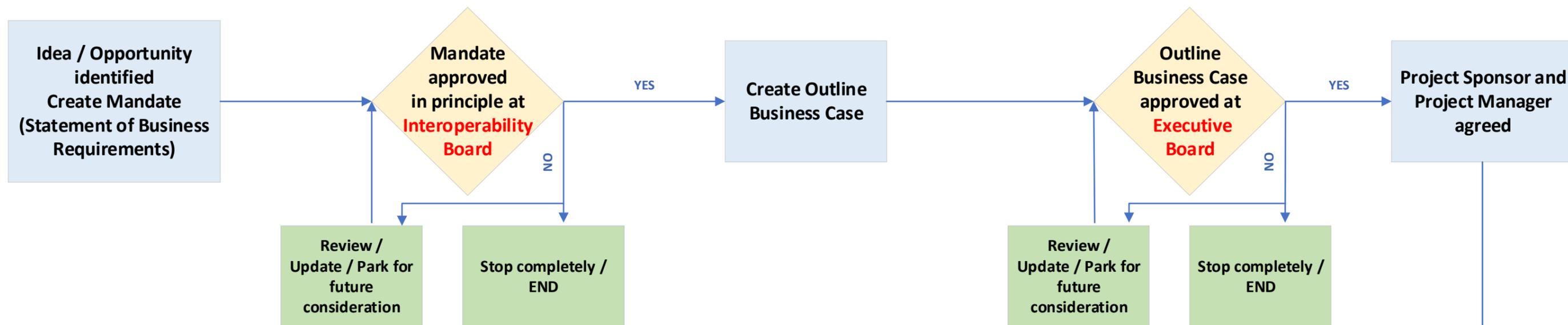
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scope is under review and being refreshed <p><u>Blue Light Estates</u></p> <p>Including shared estates, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broughton Fire Station• Blue Light Hub Milton Keynes <p>Neighbourhood Police Offices / bases, which free up public estates, improve working practices and provide a focal point for local communities where they see partners working together for them, whilst delivering year on year revenue savings.</p> <p><u>Procurement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appliances• Operational Equipment• Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) <p>Primary benefits include improved interoperability, enhanced resilience, a reduction in cross border mobilisations. Best Value is achieved through collaborative contract negotiation and joint procurement.</p> <p>A recent example is the joint red fleet replacement, which has standardised the front-line fire appliances and equipment across the Thames Valley. Total savings per appliance of the equipment alone, following on from collaboration contracts with Berkshire and Oxfordshire: £7,087.85 per appliance</p> <p>BFRS purchased 12 appliances in 2019, the total saving achieved was £85k with two more to go, resulting in around £100k saved through the life of the contract.</p> <p>In September 2017, the Fire Authority approved funding for a new PPE contract with Bristol Uniforms as part of the national PPE collaborative framework. The contract delivers savings of £152,693 over the contract life when compared with purchasing the equipment outright.</p> <p><u>Workforce Reform</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apprenticeships: recruiting our staff through an apprenticeship framework has delivered a range of benefits across departments, including - Workshops, Finance, Staff Development and Response. Four cohorts of firefighters (57 staff) now directly employed in operational roles and a fifth cohort (16 staff) currently in training who are scheduled to go into operational roles from 8th July, totalling 73 apprentice firefighters. We have had nine support staff, on apprenticeships, complete their qualifications, with five currently enrolled on apprenticeships as part of our upskilling
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	<p>programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment and Selection: Working in partnership with our TVP colleagues at recruitment fayres and apprenticeship shows.
ACTION	Noted
RECOMMENDATIONS	It is recommended that the progress of the Emergency Services Collaboration programme, within the Thames Valley Update, be noted.
RISK MANAGEMENT	<p>Each project is subject to regular review and scrutiny throughout is various stages of delivery. Risks are identified at the Interoperability stage within the Business case and monitored all the way through to oversight by the Steering Group.</p> <p>Programme risks are regularly evaluated and monitored through the Collaboration programme structure.</p>
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	The financial benefits of collaboration will vary depending upon the type of service or procurement arrangements. Major collaboration projects are subject to normal officer and member approval protocols. The recent collaborative work on appliances and associated equipment between the Thames Valley Fire Authorities produced savings on collective budgets of well over £700k over the four years in which they will be procured. This has resulted in standardised equipment enabling standard operating procedures.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	No direct impact.
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE	The Policing and Crime Act 2017 requires the Authority to keep opportunities for collaboration with the police and ambulance services under review.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	No direct impact. However, options to deliver Health, Safety and Welfare functions across the Thames Valley, continue to be part of the Collaboration programme.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	Considerations of equality and diversity issues are built into the individual collaboration projects. For example, the Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Services collaborative recruitment and apprenticeships programme set out processes which seek to increase the diversity of the workforce.
USE OF RESOURCES	<p>Strategic context</p> <p>The Authority’s approach to collaborative working aligns well with the Policing and Crime Act 2017 and is well defined to support the strategic objectives set out</p>

	<p>within the 2020 to 2025 Corporate Plan.</p> <p>Communication with stakeholders</p> <p>Internal – updates are included in SMT BLOGs and internal bi-monthly meetings are held with the Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) and the project managers</p> <p>External – information is exchanged and shared at the Interoperability Group (SRO’s), Executive Board (CEO’s, CFO’s and Chief Constable) and Steering Group (Elected Members and PCC’s Office)</p> <p>The system of internal control</p> <p>Updates will be provided to the Emergency Services Thames Valley Collaboration Steering Group and Fire Authority as required.</p> <p>The management of the asset base</p> <p>Collaborative opportunities will be actively sought that allow for efficient use of property and equipment assets between Authorities. This may be shared use, shared procurement, or shared back office and systems in respect of asset management.</p>
<p>PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>Report to the Fire Authority, held 12 December 2018, Item 12, Emergency Services Collaboration in the Thames Valley https://bucksfire.gov.uk/documents/2020/03/121218_fire_authority_agenda.pdf/</p>
<p>APPENDICES</p>	<p>Appendix A: Governance Structure Appendix B: Draft Governance Processes Appendix C: Training Alignment Review Appendix D: Letter of thanks</p>
<p>TIME REQUIRED</p>	<p>15 minutes</p>
<p>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</p>	<p>Calum Bell cbell@bucksfire.gov.uk 07766340974</p>

Thames Valley Collaboration Governance Structure





Thames Valley Collaboration Governance Process Map (V2.0)

TV Collaboration ~Training Alignment Review ~ May 2020

Skill area	Progress	Further actions
Transport	All services aligned in terms of equipment and procedures	OFRS to share training packages
Water	All services aligned in terms of Module 2-5, with the exception of "Tethered Wade" technique	Bucks to reintroduce Tethered wade, RBFRS to discuss introduction into service
Casualty Care	All services aligned to IEC (BFRS to 100% provision, RBFRS to 75% provision, OFRS to 100% provision)	RBFRS to determine how 75% provision is split and feedback to OFRS – OFRS to discuss potential impact
Incident Command	All services aligned for L1 – L3 provision. Services looking for alternate solutions to L4 initial and revalidation assessments.	RBFRS to determine if other services included in new Peter Stanley contract. OFRS to trial FSC L4 initial course and feedback.
Practical Fire craft	RBFRS send OC candidates to OFRS. BFRS run internal course. OFRS and BFRS running new WT apprenticeship course, RBFRS using Red One for standard FFDP	RBFRS to confirm whether still require OFRS to train On-call.
Hazmat	HMA and DIM training aligned, however uncertainty relating to alignment of operational resources	Working group to be set up between Hazmat instructors to discuss
Driving	OFRS and BFRS aligned.	RBFRS to determine any barriers for alignment
BA	PPV not aligned. BA techniques not aligned.	RBFRS to determine introduction of Phase 2 PPV. All services to wait for alignment of BA set to align on specific BA techniques.
Working at Height	Services not aligned.	Working group to be re-started to discuss aligning RBFRS to OFRS/BFRS for on-call and provision of WT assets.
Tactical Operational Guidance/Standard Operating Procedure/Additional Hazard Information System/Maintenance of Competence	Services aligning to OIN's and NOG in own ways	OFRS to provide access to new TOG/SOP/AHIS packages and MoC

	Mostly achieved
	Working towards

Glossary of Terms

BFRS	Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service
OFRS	Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
RBFRS	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
AHIS	Additional Hazard Information System
BA	Breathing Apparatus
DIM	Detection Identification & Monitoring
FFDP	Fire Fighter Development Programme
FSC	Fire Service College (Training Provider)
L 1 - 4	Four levels of Incident Command, Supervisory > Strategic
MHA	Hazardous Materials Advisor
MoC	Maintenance of Competence
NOG	National Operational Guidance
OC	On-Call firefighters (part time)
OIN	Operational Information Note
PPV	Positive Pressure Ventilation
Red One	Training Provider
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TOG	Tactical Operational Guidance
WT	Wholetime (full time)



18th May 2020

Jason Thelwell
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Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service

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Dear Jason

On behalf of South Central Ambulance Service, I would like to take this opportunity to pass on our very grateful thanks to you for providing and releasing your staff to come and work for SCAS as blue light drivers during our COVID response. The Trust could not have operated fully without the assistance that you very kindly provided to us.

Our Urgent and Emergency care demand through our 999 calls has reduced over the past few weeks which is why we are decreasing the reliance on additional support. We are continuing to monitor our activity levels and have a robust plan to increase our operational resource levels when required, and this includes utilising the Fire personnel who have been trained and deployed over the last few weeks.

We would really appreciate any feedback that you or your staff who have been deployed to SCAS, have on how we have trained and integrated them into SCAS. If you have any feedback then please can I ask this is sent through to Nic Dunbar, Head of Operations, Community Engagement & Training. We are keen to identify any positive or negative areas to ensure we learn from this experience and improve any areas as required.

Whilst it is difficult to plan for any future peaks in demand during our response to COVID, we are keen that having developed the framework and working relationships with our Fire & Rescue Services, we harness these in the future to enable us to deploy Fire personnel during other peak demand periods. I would like to request that our respective operational teams agree that where possible we would call upon the support of the Fire staff to be deployed in SCAS during periods such as adverse weather or times where SCAS are unable to meet our escalating demand.

COVID has been very challenging for the Ambulance Service and it was with the help of your organisation that we were able to utilise your staff to assist us to continue to provide the best service to our patients. I am keen that we continue to work across these partnerships to ensure both organisations continue to deliver the best response to our patients and the public.

Thank you once again for kindly releasing your staff it has helped so much.

Yours sincerely

Will Hancock
Chief Executive