

## **SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Meeting	<b>FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>
Meeting Date	<b>21 FEBRUARY 2022</b>
Report of	<b>CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>
Report Sponsor(s)	<b>DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER / CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER &amp; DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DELIVERY</b>
Subject	<b>SYFR COLLABORATION STRATEGY REVIEW</b>

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides members of the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) with an updated Collaboration Strategy and accompanying Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for approval. The refreshed strategy has been through two consultation processes, the first with key collaboration colleagues in late 2021, and the second via the normal Corporate Management Board (CMB) consultation process in January 2022.

The SYFR Collaboration Strategy was first presented in 2019, both to CMB and FRA Members. It was deemed to require FRA sign off, as it was the first SYFR Collaboration Strategy. Appendix A is a refresh to this, therefore is presented for approval.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are recommended to:

- a) Approve the refreshed Collaboration Strategy

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### **CONTENTS**

Main Report

Appendix A – Refreshed SYFR Collaboration Strategy

Appendix B – Refreshed Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) – new NFCC template

Appendix C – Collaboration registers and current position

## **BACKGROUND**

1. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR) have always collaborated with partners, such as in the prevention, protection, incident ground, resilience and over the border settings. This work has been further formalised and structured via appropriate emergency services acts and frameworks.
2. One of the provisions of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 is the introduction of a 'duty to collaborate' on all three emergency services, with the overall aim to improve efficiency and effectiveness. SYFR are working together with their partners to achieve this, focusing on collaboration adding value to their communities.
3. The requirement for a Fire and Rescue Services to seek collaborative opportunities can be found in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, and the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2014.
4. In 2017, SYFR and South Yorkshire Police (SYP) committed to a formal collaboration programme, building on the successful collaboration between the two parties to deliver comprehensive collaborative projects. In order to effectively manage these we have an established governance structure including project meetings, assurance boards, and the top level decision-making Police and Fire Collaboration Board with membership and Chief Fire Officer, Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner level.
5. SYFR are committed to appropriate collaboration with partners and are engaged in other collaborations outside of those with South Yorkshire Police. This collaboration spans many different teams in the service.

### **Strategy changes**

6. There are minimal changes to the refreshed SYFR Collaboration Strategy. The main changes include:
7. The addition of a Fire and Rescue specific introduction, inclusive of the Local Resilience Impact of the Civil Contingencies Act. This is found in section one of the strategy, the background.
8. The change of the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) reference from IRMP to Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), to match the changes made in this year's IRMP review. This is found in section five of the strategy, the strategic direction.
9. The addition of SYFR CRMP 2021-2024 information, making reference to the collaboration stated in the CRMP document. This is found in section five of the strategy, the strategic direction.
10. The addition of further supporting documents referenced in section 11 of the strategy, the supporting documents. This includes the new CRMP, the Annual Plan and the regional co-procurement group – all three are new since the first creation of this strategy in 2019.

## **A Collaborative Overview**

11. The below provides a prose summary of the two main collaboration streams, with the local police and with regional fire and rescue services. A more detailed collaboration overview can be found in Appendix C.

### South Yorkshire Police (SYP) Collaboration

12. The Joint Community Safety Department (JCSD) continues to report into the JCSD Assurance Board on a quarterly basis, with the Head of Department reporting progress to ACO Carlin and T/ACC Thorpe. This board provides a reporting mechanism for the effectiveness of the JCSD, including quarterly reporting against the performance of the department.
13. The Joint Vehicle Fleet Management (JVFM) department is still in the project phase. It is managed via a similar approach to the JCSD, with a jointly funded head of department and collaborative fleet managers supporting them. This includes a management of nearly 1,000 vehicles through the Joint Vehicle Fleet Management department, including the sharing of specialist skills and experience.
14. 2020 saw the successful completion of a SYP bodyshop building on the SYFR Eastwood site, bringing with it improved best practice and knowledge sharing of fleet experience and knowledge, as well as efficiency opportunities for both organisations. The JVFM activity is still in a project status as it progresses towards better joint management information and implementing further changes from this learning.
15. Non-project collaborations continue and they are summarised at every Police and Fire Collaboration Board via a collaboration register. The two organisations continue to collaborate with training and development opportunities, as well as wellbeing and welfare best practice sharing. SYP continue to run first aid sessions for SYFR, and SYFR continue to run driving training for SYP, with this mutual support saving both organisations training costs.

### Regional Fire and Rescue Services collaboration

16. SYFR is committed to collaborating with others where it adds value to the South Yorkshire communities or the organisation. The service's aim is that "South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue will collaborate locally, regionally and nationally where it is efficient or effective to do so to contribute to making South Yorkshire safer and stronger." (SYFR Collaboration Strategy; 2019, 2022).
17. The service has always collaborated with their Fire and Rescue colleagues, primarily focused on regional and over the border services, frontline support and resilience. This is particularly effective through large incident support, whereby neighbouring fire and rescue service have provided appliances and operational resilience and vice versa.
18. The service has provided resilience and support for protracted incidents, such as for the Lincolnshire floods, focussed in Wainfleet and Thorpe Culvert, and multiple wildfires at Marsden and Saddleworth Moor in West Yorkshire. Equally, over the border colleagues have provided SYFR with resilience via appliances and operational support for incidents such as Hatfield and Wharnccliffe moors fires and the 2019 South Yorkshire flooding.

19. Since the last strategy update, the service and the region have progressed against a variety of regional fire and rescue collaborative opportunities, utilising project management and benefits realisation methodology to ensure that these are governed and monitored robustly.
20. Progress includes regional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) procurement, Command Support pack alignment and purchase, formalisation of Strategic Command resilience, and the alignment of associated Command Support activities, such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to share Command Support Units regionally.

#### A Regional Collaboration in Focus: Regional PPE

21. Firefighters across the Yorkshire and Humber region have revealed new, advanced fire kit following a joint procurement deal. SYFR procurement team led on this co-procurement process for the region.
22. As part of a tri-service agreement, all firefighters in the Humberside region, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire will begin wearing new fire tunics and trousers. For crews in Humberside and South Yorkshire, the PPE revamp will also feature a pioneering, multi-function rescue jacket to reflect the changing role of the modern firefighter.
23. The kit is currently being rolled out across the three counties to assist firefighters in best protecting local communities. It is a proud moment for all three fire services, who have collaborated in a two year project, resulting in the final contract being awarded to supplier Ballyclare International.
24. The new fire kit features specially designed knee and elbow panels to make it easier to move and more comfortable to wear as well as innovative new spacer fabric, to improve breathability for those wearing it.
25. The collaboration means all three services have saved money, enhanced firefighter safety and standardised fire kit regionally. This created benefits for the standard of kit, improved regional working, as well as cost savings.
26. The PPE underwent rigorous testing back in June 2020, as part of extensive performance trials involving both male and female firefighters from all three services.
27. The regional PPE procurement project was completed in 2021. A 'lessons learned' approach was undertaken to capture the strengths and opportunities for this regional project, including recommendations, such as the set-up of a regional co-procurement group.
28. This regional co-procurement group has now been established, with a terms of reference written and approved regionally in 2021. The procurement group functions as a practical working group for discussion and action of regional procurement, to report up to the strategic regional group. The inaugural meeting took place on the 24 January 2022.

## CONTRIBUTION TO OUR ASPIRATIONS

- Be a great place to work-** we will create the right culture, values and behaviours to make this a brilliant place to work that is inclusive for all
- Put people first-** we will spend money carefully, use our resources wisely and collaborate with others to provide the best deal to the communities we serve
- Strive to be the best in everything we do-** we will work with others, make the most of technology and develop leaders to become the very best at what we can be

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

- Yes
- No

If you have ticked 'Yes' please provide brief details in the box below and include the third party/parties it would involve:

Collaboration is integral to the activities outlined in these papers.

## CORPORATE RISK ASSESSMENT AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY IMPLICATIONS

- 29 The report considers corporate risk and the impact to delivery of business objectives. Business continuity is considered as part of the risk identification and risk mitigation actions.

## EQUALITY ANALYSIS COMPLETED

- Yes

If you have ticked 'Yes' please complete the below comment boxes providing details as follows:

Summary of any Adverse Impacts Identified:	Key Mitigating Actions Proposed and Agreed:
As captured in the attached EqIA	As captured in the attached EqIA

- No
- N/A

If you have ticked 'No' or 'N/A' please complete the comments box below providing details of why an EA is not required/is outstanding:

The report provides an update on the management of corporate risk, and does not require an Equality Analysis assessment.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETED

- Yes
- No
- N/A

If you have ticked 'No' or 'N/A' please complete the comments box below providing details of why a Health and Safety Risk Assessment is not required/is outstanding:

Any health and safety risk assessments appertaining to the collaborations should already have been completed by the relevant departments.

## SCHEME OF DELEGATION

30. Under the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority [Scheme of Delegation](#) a decision \*is required / \*has been approved at Service level.

Delegated Power  Yes  
 No

If yes, please complete the comments box indicating under which delegated power.

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## IMPLICATIONS

31. Consider whether this report has any of the following implications and if so, address them below:., Diversity, Financial, Asset Management, Environmental and Sustainability, Fleet, Communications, ICT, Health and Safety, Data Protection, Collaboration, Legal and Industrial Relations implications have been considered in compiling this report.

List of background documents		
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