



Committee report

Committee	FULL COUNCIL
Date	15 JUNE 2016
Title	ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2016
Report of	EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC PROTECTION AND PFI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the first year progress of the strategic partnership between Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA) and Isle of Wight Fire Authority (IWFA). The partnership is being delivered through the “Delivering Differently in Partnership” (project).
2. The first year of the project has delivered the savings to the Isle of Wight Council as set out in the [business case](#)
3. The project is on target to deliver the products set out in the business case.
4. It is recommended that the partnership continue in accordance with the current project plan subject to the change control mechanisms referred to in the strategic partnership agreement.
5. Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (IWFRS) is confident the partnership will progress positively in the coming year and as the partnership matures there will be further opportunities identified for collaboration within fire as well as other blue light partners.

BACKGROUND

6. The decision to approve the partnership was given at [Full Council on the 21 January 2015](#). It was resolved:
 - (i) THAT a strategic partnership agreement be entered into with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority.
 - (ii) THAT strategic leadership is provided as set out in the agreement. As a consequence of that, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services (HFRS) Chief Fire Officer are appointed the Chief Fire Officer of the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service.

- (iii) THAT the Managing Director, be delegated the authority, in consultation with the then Leader and Executive Member for Public Protection and PFI, to conclude on the precise wording of the agreement, provided it remained within the broad terms as set out in the report (attached to and forming part of [these minutes](#)).
7. The resolution (iii) above was completed and the strategic partnership agreement worded in the broad terms of the report.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

8. The project continues to deliver in accordance with the Isle of Wight Council [Corporate Plan 2015-17](#) . Priority 1 “Supporting growth in the economy, making the Island a better place and keeping it safe” states an outcome for the fire service as, “Full Council agreed at its meeting on 21 January 2015 to progress a strategic partnership with the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service .The Isle of Wight Council remains the Isle of Wight Fire Authority and the strategic partnership will provide enhanced command and control, increased capacity, resilience and sustainability as well as a range of benefits that a partnership brings. In addition significant savings can be achieved without reducing the service, closing fire stations or reducing front line staff.”

COMPLETED WORK TO DATE

9. Two products of the project have been successfully delivered
10. The Strategic Leadership product has created significant savings to the council as detailed in the financial section of this report. Although the service is managed locally on a day to day basis HFRS senior managers are strategically accountable.
11. There has been an enhancement in the weight of officer response to ensure additional commanders are available to manage operational incidents of specific size and complexity. These officers are based on the Island with strategic managers providing assistance from Hampshire.
12. The IWFRS Service Plan 2016 – 17 refers to the active products being delivered through the project. These are as follows:
13. Training – sharing training policies, platforms for learning and monopolising on a growing training academy within HFRS
14. Service Policy and Tactical Operational Guidance – reducing duplication of effort in the creation of operational policies. Operational assurance mechanisms were used with Hampshire at the recent fire in Medina Village, Cowes to support organisational improvement.
15. Health and Safety Management – HFRS health and safety department now manages health and safety on behalf of the service with a team of four professionals

16. Fleet and Equipment Management – user requirements are being worked on with the joint project team to ensure additional savings are identified and the service benefits from economies of scale
17. Data and knowledge management – the service will be in receipt of the technological feasibility study findings to inform the decision on this product. Data and Knowledge management involves 999 call handling and mobilisation as well as performance and risk information systems.
18. The project has so far been a success that will ensure capacity and resilience are created following the delivery of the products. This will assist the council in delivering an efficient and effective service and will continue to contribute to the financial savings required this year. The project is a positive change model that is forward planning for the next five years and potentially beyond.

SCRUTINY

19. The partnership is not subject to any Isle of Wight Council regular scrutiny panels. HFRA requires the project manager to report to the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee as part of their scrutiny process.
20. The service reports to Cllr Phil Jordan on the project on a monthly basis.
21. Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) completed an audit during 2015/16 on the project which made no recommendations for improvement. The report noted, *“Previous internal audit reviews have concluded that the Isle of Wight Fire Service demonstrated a consistently high standard of project management procedures and controls over the projects selected for review by internal audit; this trend continues with the current DDIP Project, our review identifying good practice across all areas.”**

**Quote from executive summary of PWC internal audit report 2015*
22. It was noted by the audit committee that the project was the first in five years to have no recommendations made for improvement. This is testament to the professional way in which the council and fire service has worked together during this project.

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

23. During 2015/16 the project delivered net savings to the Isle of Wight Council of £301,124
24. These savings have been confirmed by the management accountant for fire and rescue.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

25. The strategic partnership agreement was created by the council and HFRA legal departments.

26. Without the project there would be a risk of failure to provide an adequate fire service and those obligations placed upon the service under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

27. The [Equality Impact Assessment](#) has been completed. This does not identify any direct equality implications of entering into the project with HFRS in that the services currently operated by the service will continue.

RISK MANAGEMENT

28. The project risks are being recorded within Isle of Wight Council JCAD Risk and HFRS RAIDD. Project management principles are being applied to ensure mitigating actions are in place and all relevant control measures are recorded. There are currently no red risks relating to the project.

EVALUATION

29. The strategic partnership is progressing in accordance with the project plan. There is a will to bring forward products to potentially create additional savings which will be explored throughout 2016/17. Any changes to the project plan will be sanctioned through the DDIP Implementation Board.

RECOMMENDATION

30. It is recommended that the partnership continue in accordance with the current project plan subject to the change control mechanisms referred to in the strategic partnership agreement.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

31. All background papers are included within this report as hyperlinks embedded in the appropriate paragraphs.

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