



OFFICIAL

Attendance at Overseas Operational Exercise

Finance & Resources Committee

Date: 10 April 2015

Agenda Item:

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Submitted By: Director of Service Delivery

Purpose

To inform Members of an invitation for a West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) officer to attend a Home Office funded international operational exercise, CAPEX, in Ottawa in April / May 2015.

Recommendations

That Members approve the attendance of one officer at exercise CAPEX 2015 in Ottawa, Canada.

Summary

CAPEX is a biennial exercise involving personnel from the Military, Police, Ambulance Service, the Security Services and Fire and Rescue Service from the United States, Canada, Australia and the UK.

The 2015 exercise is being held Monday 27 April - Friday 1 May 2015 at a Royal Canadian Mounted Police Facility near Ottawa, Canada. The exercise will test responders in a series of complex Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRN(E)) scenarios.

The last such exercise was held in Norfolk, Virginia, USA in April 2-13 when approval was given to the attendance of Station Manager, Andrew Farrell.

Local Government (Access to information) Act 1972

Exemption Category: None

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Background papers open to inspection: None

Annexes: None

1 Introduction

- 1.1 CAPEX is a biennial exercise involving personnel from the Military, Police, Ambulance Services, the Security Services and Fire and Rescue Services from the United States, Canada, Australia and the UK.
- 1.2 The 2015 exercise is being held between Monday 27 April and Friday 1 May 2015 at a Royal Canadian Mounted Police Facility near Ottawa, Canada. The exercise will test responders in a series of complex Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRN(E)) scenarios.

2 Information

- 2.1 On 23 February 2015, a formal request was received from the Police National CBRN Centre (PNCBRNC) that Station Manager (SM) Chris Booth, be permitted to form part of the UK contingent at the exercise.
- 2.2 SM Booth is a prominent member of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service's (WYFRS) Hazardous Materials and Environmental Protection Officers (HMEPO) cadre which forms part of the national Detection, Identification and Monitoring (DIM) capability. SM Booth was part of the capability deployed to the NATO Summit held in Cardiff in 2014. The fact he has been selected to attend this exercise from Fire and Rescue Services (FRS') across the country, demonstrates the high regard in which he is held nationally and how WYFRS is regarded as a leading FRS in this field of operations.
- 2.3 Travel costs and accommodation for the duration of the exercise is fully funded by the Home Office.
- 2.4 If approved, SM Booth will be absent from his position in WYFRS for the five-day duration of the exercise plus an approximate additional four days due to travel commitments.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 All costs relating to this visit will be met by the Home Office and consequently there will be no additional cost to the Authority.

4 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 4.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues directly linked to this report.

5 Health and Safety Implications

- 5.1 SM Booth's participation in the exercise will broaden his knowledge, understanding and experience within his role and this will assist him in further developing policy and procedure for operational crews in dealing with CBRN(E) related incidents.

6 Service Plan Links

- 6.1 This report directly links to the following priority:
 - Deliver a professional and resilient emergency response service

7 Conclusions

- 7.1 WYFRS is highly regarded nationally in its role in providing support to the National Resilience programme. This invitation demonstrates the high regard in which SM Booth is held and will assist in furthering the knowledge, understanding and experience of CBRN(E) related incidents of this officer and then subsequently WYFRS.