



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

FIRE CONTROL COLLABORATION

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 25 September 2015

Purpose of Report:

To update Members on the latest developments regarding fire control collaboration with Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

CONTACT OFFICER

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As part of the balancing the budget report to the Fire Authority on 28 February 2014, it was agreed to consider the opportunity for greater collaboration between Leicestershire and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Services. Following that meeting the Chief Fire Officer received confirmation that Leicestershire wished to engage in considering a shared Control function.
- 1.2 After the establishment of a Member led joint working group and subsequent meetings with Leicestershire, the Authority, at its meeting of 14 December 2014, agreed to the principle of combining control functions and the formation of an appropriate governance structure.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The Tri-Service (Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire) Fire Control system that is now in use links all three Control Rooms seamlessly and enables each one to mobilise the assets of the other two.
- 2.2 The Authority recognised that this technology would enable greater collaboration and the ability to generate additional savings through combination of control functions. This was also recognised by Leicestershire and work commenced to progress the concept with joint savings anticipated in the region of £400k per annum for each authority.
- 2.3 At a meeting held in May, attended by the respective Chairs and Chief Fire Officers, concerns were raised from Leicestershire that there may be issues that could potentially have an impact on the collaboration project progressing. At that time it was agreed to halt the implementation work and revisit the issue in September.
- 2.4 In early September the Chief Fire Officer engaged in discussion with the Leicestershire Chief Fire Officer, and unfortunately this has led to a position that Leicestershire is unable to move forward with a combined control function at this time.
- 2.5 The inability to move forward with the collaboration does not compromise the operational effectiveness of the organisation, however it does remove the opportunity to generate the £400k savings this project had the potential to deliver. This impact will need to be considered in future budget deficit work-streams.
- 2.6 A similar report is being presented to Leicestershire Fire Authority and co-ordinated briefings will be undertaken with employees and their representatives.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, however the inability to create savings from this project will need to be factored into ongoing work-streams regarding the future financial deficit.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications arising from this report, however officers are conscious of the impact of uncertainty on staff and this will be factored in to employee briefings.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken as this report does not propose any changes to Service policy.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The inability to generate savings from the collaboration project means that other work will need to move forward to address the budget deficit in a timely manner. The Chief Fire Officer is aware of this, and other reports elsewhere on the agenda have the potential to address the issue in the short term.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 9.1 Note the inability to progress the Control Collaboration project with Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service; and
- 9.2 Dissolve the Member led working group and governance structure to oversee the implementation and long term delivery of the Control function.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER