



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority  
Policy and Strategy Committee

# COLLABORATION UPDATE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

**Date:** 03 February 2017

**Purpose of Report:**

To provide an overview on current and prospective collaborative activities by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service.

## CONTACT OFFICER

<b>Name :</b>	Craig Parkin Assistant Chief Fire Officer
<b>Tel :</b>	(0115) 967 0880
<b>Email :</b>	craig.parkin@notts-fire.gov.uk
<b>Media Enquiries Contact :</b>	Therese Easom (0115) 967 0880 therese.easom@notts-fire.gov.uk

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Working with others has been a core objective for Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS), as evidenced by the diverse and broad spectrum of partnerships seen locally across the city and county. Indeed the current Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) is extensive in its aspirations to work with partners to deliver tailored services for improving outcomes for individual citizens and communities as a whole.
- 1.2 NFRS is held in high regard as a positive and highly trusted partner and is able to use its reputation to engage where many partners face barriers to success. The extent to which collaboration takes place is often overlooked and this report highlights some key elements that support day to day service delivery.
- 1.3 During 2016 the National Audit Office (NAO) delivered a report on the financial sustainability of the fire service nationally in which it complemented the Service's ability to engage with communities and influence outcomes.
- 1.4 The Policing and Crime Bill is due to receive royal assent and will put in place a statutory responsibility for police, fire and ambulance services to collaborate to deliver efficiency, effectiveness and/or better outcomes for communities.
- 1.5 The Sustainability Strategy 2020 previously presented by the Chief Fire Officer already addresses points within both the NAO report and Policing and Crime Bill and further builds upon the approach taken in recent years by the Authority.

## 2. REPORT

- 2.1 Collaboration is an intrinsic part of how NFRS operates with partners to deliver high quality public services. This makes full use of the combined resources available and leads to better outcomes for both service users and taxpayers.
- 2.2 Collaboration, by its very nature, covers a huge spectrum and can range from high levels of communication and information exchange, right through to shared procurement, shared estate and the joint delivery of services. NFRS engages at every level, although it is clear that there are opportunities for more to be done.
- 2.3 Most notable areas of collaboration are drawn out below, however Appendix A shows the wider range of practices that the service engages in.
  - 2.3.1 **Co-location**

Across the NFRS estate a number of premises are shared with other partners. There is already one joint fire and ambulance station at Eastwood and work is ongoing to secure a second utilising an existing East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) site. Furthermore, EMAS

utilise a number of fire stations as 'standby' sites and have marked bays, charging points and full use of facilities.

London Road fire station houses the Nottingham City Council Emergency Planning Team, and Nottinghamshire Police occupy a building in Clifton.

### **2.3.2 Joint Working**

An officer from NFRS is embedded within the Police emergency planning team and provides information and intelligence exchange leading to joint operational planning. This also facilitates joint training in both specific and general areas relating to both local risks and national resilience.

Close working with the Police in the community enabled a local team to be drawn together at short notice to tackle a spike in rural crime. This involved officers from fire and police undertaking joint visits to provide advice and re-assurance to rural commercial premises.

NFRS has been involved in the provision of emergency medical response on behalf of EMAS for fifteen years. In 2016 five more stations started to deliver the service bringing the total number of emergency responding assets to nine.

Driver training is shared with Derbyshire Fire Service and fire behaviour training is secured from Lincolnshire Fire Service. A group drawn from all five regional services is jointly introducing National Operational Guidance.

The provision of specialist fire investigation support and the hydrocarbon detecting dog are jointly funded across the region.

### **2.3.3 Health and Social Care**

For many years NFRS has undertaken home safety checks and helped develop the first contact signposting scheme for referrals. This is now expanding to 'safe and well' checks to support independent and healthy living.

Officers have been seconded to work in joint teams in specific 'hot spot' areas across both the city and district areas. This supports community cohesion and the tackling of anti-social behaviour.

For over a decade NFRS has been a delivery partner for the Prince's Trust Team Programme which supports 16-24 year olds not in training, employment or education. The programme is also supported by Nottinghamshire Police who provide seconded officers to lead or support teams.

#### 2.3.4 Joint Procurement

Significant joint procurement takes place, most notably a single command and control system and a financial management system with Derbyshire and Leicestershire fire services. Joint procurement of fire appliances and other equipment is undertaken, and NFRS provides the national lead on construction and facilities management procurement.

- 2.4 East Midlands fire services already engage in the local delivery of national programmes, the Emergency Services Network (ESN) provides potential to look for long term collaborations in relation to procurement, contract management and maintenance arrangements across blue light services. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) is the regional fire lead and works closely with the East Midlands police lead.
- 2.5 In 2016 an East Midlands blue light collaboration meeting was initiated, with the ACFO as NFRS representative. This meeting proved positive, but has yet to be followed up with a formal approach and agreed work areas reported to the Authority for information and approval as appropriate.
- 2.6 The Policing and Crime Bill is expected to receive royal assent in due course, and it is likely that Government will seek assurance from all emergency services that the proposed statutory duty to collaborate is being fulfilled. The examples in this report go some way to meet that expectation, however the Sustainability Strategy 2020, fully supported by Members in February 2016, asked the Chief Fire Officer to *“Engage with partners to explore all opportunities that may exist for collaboration”*. This will ensure a focus is maintained on seeking all opportunities to work with others.
- 2.7 Opportunities for collaboration routinely arise, for example, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS) have issued their latest IRMP, in which they seek opportunities with partners. A number of areas of joint working are already underway with DFRS, from learning and development, operational doctrine to Tri-service control. Geographically DFRS are well placed as a fire partner and the Authority may wish to seek wider collaborative arrangements. It is therefore proposed that the Chair of the Authority respond to DFRS IRMP to explore the possibility of entering into a more formal collaboration arrangement.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional implications arising from this report, however, Members will be aware that collaboration forms part of the required efficiencies highlighted within the Sustainability Strategy 2020.

#### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional human resources or learning and development implications arising from this report

#### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because this report does not amend existing policy or service provision.

#### **6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional implications arising from this report, however the imminent introduction of the Police and Crime Bill will be evaluated and a future report provided by the Chief Fire Officer for Members' consideration.

#### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional risk management implications arising from this report as activities are discharged within existing arrangements, with inclusion in the corporate risk register as appropriate. Future collaborations will continue to take this approach and the ACFO has been tasked with a coordinating role in relation to collaborations, including risk potential.

#### **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- 9.1 Members endorse the collaboration work undertaken by the Service.
- 9.2 The Chair of the Fire Authority is asked to respond to the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service IRMP consultation to explore opportunities to enter into a formal collaboration arrangement.
- 9.3 Members receive a future report from the Chief Fire Officer on the implications arising from the Policing and Crime Bill when it receives royal assent.

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

None.

John Buckley  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

**APPENDIX A**

<b>COLLABORATION</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
Agresso Financial Management System	NFRS, Derbys and Leics FRSs
Approved Inspectors (AI)	Building control (BC) legislation now allows businesses to employ an AI to handle building control and planning. This eliminates the requirement to apply through local authority building control. NFRS staff interact with AIs in much the same way as BC, discussing and recommending on fire safety measures.
Better Business Regulators	Steering group of the Local Enterprise Partnership and have contacts within the growth hub for developing business. Through this stream NFRS has contact with the Regulatory Delivery office of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) Government.
Blood Donor Service	Some fire stations used as donor centres.
Broad Marsh Redevelopment	Emergency services point of contact.
Building Control (BC)	Legislative duty. Interact with BC in order to discuss and make recommendations on fire safety measures on new build properties and proposed extensions/developments to existing properties. NFRS also consults with BC relating to issues that are discovered during inspections. Generally these relate to non-conformity of building work and businesses that are operating outside of the BC legislation ie: change of use without prior application. BC Liaison Meetings (non-legislative good practice meetings).
Building Research Establishment (BRE)	Close liaison with BRE to share learning from serious incidents.
Care and Quality Commission (CQC)	NFRS utilise CQC data and interact with them directly in order to discuss audit outcomes with them. They are the auditing body for organisations and businesses that provide care and as this forms the basis of a large amount of inspections NFRS provides feedback on non-compliant care facilities and more importantly when issuing enforcement and prohibitions to these properties.

<b>COLLABORATION</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
Carnivals	Liaison with local carnivals (Pride, Mela, Goose Fair, Caribbean Carnival, Armed Forces Day). NFRS worked with Police for Pride.
Case Conferences	Multi-agency case reviews following serious events to share learning and improve services.
Community Safety Hubs	Multi-agency hub established in Ashfield and Broomhill to tackle community based issues.
Construction & Facilities Management	NFRS provides the fire service category lead for United Kingdom.
Councils	Work closely with district councils regarding specific community cohesion and local issues.
Crime and Disorder Partnership	Meetings at executive and strategic levels.
Door Access Training Rigs	With Nottinghamshire Police
Driving School and Driver Training	With Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.
Educational Establishments (Universities, 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Colleges)	Including Chinese business support initiative 2015. Schools, road safety education steering group, Derbyshire FRS (sharing production of Education DVD), Leicestershire FRS – Virtual Reality Head Sets and further production of video clips.
EMAS	Shared facilities at some stations. Work with burns unit / local NHS. Emergency first responding scheme at nine stations.
EMAS Hazardous Area Response Team (HART)	Joint training and HART use BA facilities at two stations
Emergency Services Network Communications Project	Project planning and equipment procurement.
Environment Agency	Collaboration over waste disposal sites and jointly funded Environmental Protection Unit.
Environmental Health	Regular collaboration – training/sharing intelligence and joint inspections.
Fire behaviour training centre (CFBT)	Delivered by Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service.



<b>COLLABORATION</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
Fire Setting Intervention	Probation Service, schools.
Flood Forums	Providing advice, support and training.
Food Licensing/Food Safety	Shared intelligence regarding premises of concern. Reporting of findings post inspections. Food safety also reported to NFRS when businesses receive a poor hygiene rating.
Health / Safe and Well	Health and Well Being Board, Health and Wellbeing Implementation Group, NHS Sustainability Transformation Plan, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Falls Prevention Working Group, New leaf smoking cessation, City and County Public Health Departments, County MASH, City and County Adult Social Care, , Adult Safeguarding Professional Development Group, Vulnerable Persons Panels and Age Concern , City Environmental Health Department.
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	Interact with the HSE should hazardous materials or unsafe practices be witnessed during inspections.
HM Coroner	Provide meeting locations at fire stations to enable private meetings between the Coroner and relatives.
Housing Departments/Providers	NFRS chairs the Housing Providers best practice meeting. Fire Protection supports this partnership work by sharing knowledge and advice with all key housing providers.
Inland Revenue	Liaise with HMRC when inspectors believe that businesses may be operating outside of the law with regard to income tax and VAT purposes. During enforcement action inspectors utilise a range of sources in order establish the responsible person. These include companies house etc. to uncover who is ultimately running a company.
Janitorial Product Procurement	In collaboration with Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service.
Joint Planning and Training Exercises	Multi-agency training and planning is undertaken to prepare for serious incidents.

COLLABORATION	Narrative
Licensing	Active members of Nottinghamshire Area Licensing Group. This includes Police, Gambling Commission and others. Have provided training to this forum and East and West Midlands Institute of Licensing. Licensing applications and Temporary Events Notice applications. Informs on issues post audit re: non-conformity of licensing conditions – ie: over occupancy.
Local Area Forums	Meeting attendance and provide local support.
Local Enterprise Partnership (D2N2)/Better Business Regulation	Active members of Better Business Regulation Group – a representation of large number of regulators who affect business, eg: HMRC, HSE, Food Standards and Trading Standards. Links to Government Better Regulation Dept.
Mental Health	Crisis Concordat Group, EMAS and Nottinghamshire Police – scoping transportation of mental health patients.
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	This is increasing, broadening our training to ensure that vulnerable persons are referred to the appropriate team.
National Defibrillator Network	NFRS has public access defibrillators at all appropriate sites.
North Notts College	Road traffic collision awareness, also working with local Magistrates to reduce offending.
Nottingham City Emergency Planning Team	Sharing of London Road site.
OFSTED	The same applies with OFSTED as with the CQC when NFRS interacts with premises that provide education and childcare.
Older Persons Loneliness Group	Rushcliffe area. NFRS involvement to add community social value and help deliver fire safety advice also.

COLLABORATION	Narrative
Partnerships	Road Safety Partnership, County CSPs, City CDP, Bassetlaw Public and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sector Partnership (former LSP), New Psychoactive Substances Professional Information Network, New Cross and Broomhill Community Projects, Partnership `Hub` working at Mansfield Civic Centre and Byron House – City Police Station (Officers hot desk from these locations), Nottinghamshire Water Safety Forum – RLSS are the lead.
Pension Administration	NFRS, Derbys FRS and Leics FRS. Finance and HR staff from the three Services work together and with the Fire Pension Administrator to share good practice and streamline processes and share tasks.
Police	Sharing of intelligence and night time economy inspections. Work with the police when enforcing and prohibiting as a support mechanism for staff should they feel threatened or to gain entry to properties where RPs are refusing entry. Also feed back to the police if staff witness any illegal practices during audit. Currently liaising with the Police with a view to a co-location site at a fire station to also become a Police focal point, running Police drop-in surgeries three times a week. Police localised burglary spikes – red route assistance where required. Also rural intervention vehicle. Risk and hazard reduction. Officer seconded to work in Police emergency planning team.
Positive Futures	Cycle project for young children.
Primary Authority Scheme for Fire Safety (PAS)	Lead authority for Boots PLC and has national influence. As part of PAS, NFRS works with Food Safety and Health and Safety Regulators (as above).
Prince's Trust	Police staff seconded to support the delivery of the Team Programme.
Pub Watch in Newark	Reducing anti-social behaviour and crime.

<b>COLLABORATION</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
Public Health England	One employee seconded one day per week.
Safety Advisory Groups	Meetings/events. Including collaborative training exercise between NFRS and EMAS through SAG
Secure Establishments (Prisoner Rehabilitation Programmes)	Despite being Crown, Fire Protection have advised on all existing MOUs with our County prisons.
Serious and Organised Crime Group	Member of group.
Smoke Alarm Procurement	In collaboration with West Midlands FRS
St John Ambulance	Site sharing at one location.
Stationary Product Procurement	In collaboration with Leics FRS.
Street Pastors	Work with them in Newark and Sherwood.
Trading Standards	Regular collaboration and intelligence sharing through MOU. Interact with Trading Standards if inspectors witness what they believe illegal trading might be taking place or if there are issues relating to appliances that have failed causing fires in commercial businesses. This supports information sharing in order to assist with product recalls through faulty manufacturing.
Traveller Liaison Support	With Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, and Notts Education Dept.
Tri-Service Command and Control System	Fire control system. Control room desk procurement. Control Room design and fit out (all Notts, Derbys, Leics). Joint team in place.
UK Border	Often as the result of intelligence attained through inspection activity. Inform this team if staff witness or have reason to believe that businesses are employing or housing illegal immigrants or there is evidence to suggest that modern slavery practices are being used. Training has been provided by support team some years ago.

<b>COLLABORATION</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
Vulnerable Women's Group	Fire service premises utilised.
Women's Aid	Awareness and training.

<b>FUTURE COLLABORATION</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
Carlton Fire Station	Police contact point.
East Leake Fire Station	Police beat office.
Environmental Protection Unit and Command Support Unit Collaboration	With Derbys FRS.
Fire Behaviour Training Centre	At Derbys FRS from March 2018.
Hucknall Ambulance Station	Co-location.
London Road Fire Station	Police beat office.
Structural Personal Protective Equipment and Fire Boots	With Derbys FRS.
Worksop Fire Station	Co-location, Fire/Police/EMAS.