



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

COLLABORATION WITH DERBYSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 20 July 2018

Purpose of Report:

To seek approval from Members for a Strategic Collaboration Board with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name : Craig Parkin
Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Tel : 0115 967 0880

Email : craig.parkin@notts-fire.gov.uk

**Media Enquiries
Contact :** Therese Easom
(0115) 967 0880 therese.easom@notts-fire.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members will be aware that over the last year Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has developed and implemented its collaboration strategy and created a collaboration board with Nottinghamshire Police. The initial workstreams have concentrated on prevention, emergency planning, estates and learning and development
- 1.2 On 5 June 2018 Members from both Derbyshire Fire Authority and Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority attended a seminar to discuss areas of potential future collaboration.
- 1.3 The Police and Crime Act 2017 places a statutory requirement on the Fire and Rescue Service to consider collaboration agreements with other emergency services where it would be in the interests of efficiency, effectiveness and public safety.
- 1.4 Central Government and Her Majesty Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) have also indicated an expectation fire and rescue services explore and develop collaboration opportunities with other emergency services. This will also form part of the HMICFRS's inspection of the Service, currently scheduled later in the year.
- 1.5 The Service's Sustainability Strategy 2020 has identified that savings of £800,000 are required from collaboration for the Service to balance the budget by 2020.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 On 5 June 2018 Members attended a collaboration seminar with Members from Derbyshire Fire Authority. During the seminar, the respective Chief Fire Officers (CFOs) outlined the current collaborations that both Services were involved with and identified opportunities for future collaborations. The collaboration seminar followed on from a previous meeting between both respective Chairs and CFOs.
- 2.2 Currently NFRS has collaboration agreements in place with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS) covering the use of the command support unit and environmental protection unit. In addition, both Services are in the process of procuring the same personal protective equipment for operational firefighters.
- 2.3 Both NFRS and DFRS have Tri-Service Fire Control arrangements in place with Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS). At present, each Service has its own Control Room which operate on a shared mobilising system across the three counties.

- 2.4 The original intention of the Tri-Service Control project was to seek efficiencies following the government grant funding received for the project. At present the full efficiencies that were originally identified have not yet been realised.
- 2.5 Discussions between CFOs have identified several areas of initial collaboration between the two Services. These are:
- Operational training;
 - Sharing of specialist tactical advisors;
 - Fire Protection, including fire engineering;
 - Specialist response for terrorism incidents;
 - A joint Control function for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.
- 2.6 In September 2017 Members agreed NFRS's collaboration strategy. The strategy identified that a Strategic Collaboration Board (SCB) should be established to provide oversight of the collaboration workstreams. The SCB should report into the existing Fire Authority structures and should not have autonomy as a decision-making body.
- 2.7 At present NFRS has an SCB established with Nottinghamshire Police, it is proposed that an additional SCB is established with DFRS to provide governance of the collaboration workstreams.
- 2.8 Members present at the seminar indicated that the new SCB should have cross party representation. This report therefore proposes that the SCB with DFRS should comprise of both CFOs and three Members of each Authority, including the respective Chairs of each Authority.
- 2.9 Each Service has identified an Area Manager who will lead the collaboration workstreams on behalf of each Service and report progress into the SCB on a quarterly basis.
- 2.10 Both Services have commenced gathering information around the proposal of an options report for a joint Control Room for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. This will be presented to Members in September 2018. Informal discussions have also taken place with staff in both Control Rooms along with their representative bodies.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Members will be aware that in February 2016 the Authority approved the Sustainability Strategy 2020. This identified that collaboration would be one element contributing to the financial savings required by the Authority
- 3.2 Collaboration with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service has the potential to produce financial savings for both authorities, which will form part of future business cases presented to the Authority for consideration.

- 3.3 An earmarked reserve to support the organisational transitional arrangements is already in place and will be used to support collaboration activities. Officers will also pursue opportunities for transformational funding with partners that may be available from central government to further support this area of work.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

This report does not present any implications however, the future options paper would result in significant implications if the decision to have a joint function be decided. These will be highlighted in future reports to members and addressed within the Service's policy framework

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken at this stage as no changes to delivery of services or policy are proposed within this report, these will be included in any future business cases that are proposed.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Collaboration with DFRS has the potential to expand NFRS's ability to discharge its function under the Crime and Disorder Act by providing greater opportunities to share information, deliver community services and improve outcomes

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 NFRS has a statutory duty under the Police and Crime Act 2017 to consider collaboration with other emergency services to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The structure outlined within this paper would allow collaboration opportunities to be considered and demonstrate the Authority's clear commitment to collaboration and transparency.
- 7.2 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 places a duty on NFRS in respect of the delivery of its services to communities. The detailed legal implications will form part of future business cases to the Authority.
- 7.3 The Local Government Act 1999 places a statutory duty on NFRS to *'secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised'*. Collaboration has the potential to allow NFRS to secure improvements in the way that our functions are delivered.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Collaboration with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service will not only satisfy the statutory requirements to consider collaboration, but builds upon the focus for positive community outcomes by what and how the Service delivers public services and adding public value.

9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

This paper proposes a collaboration governance structure with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service and its associated workstreams. This will allow the Authority to discharge its statutory function to consider collaboration with other emergency services.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 10.1 Approve the establishment of a Strategic Collaboration Board with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 10.2 Along with the Chair, nominate two further elected Members to represent the Authority on the Strategic Collaboration Board.

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

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER