



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: 30 April 2021

Purpose of Report:

To present Members with an update on the Service's collaborations including the Joint Headquarters Programme.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members:

- Note the content of the report.
- Agree to receive a revised Collaboration Framework for approval in Spring 2022.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Since approval by the Fire Authority of the Service's Collaboration Strategy in September 2018, work has been on-going to identify opportunities to collaborate with partner agencies, primarily emergency services, in the interests of efficiency, effectiveness or improving community outcomes.
- 1.2 A large proportion of this work has taken place with colleagues at Nottinghamshire Police, however, collaboration projects are also on-going with fire and rescue services, with East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) and with other partner organisations.
- 1.3 To date a number of projects have been realised, some of which have now become business as usual. These include a Joint Control function for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, joint procurement and use of bunkered fuel with Nottinghamshire Police, co-location of Police colleagues at Highfields and West Bridgford fire stations and the joint Police and Fire drone.
- 1.4 The Police-Fire Collaboration Delivery Board and Strategic Collaboration Board continue to meet on a regular basis. The Boards monitor progress of each of the collaboration workstreams and give direction to the theme leads.
- 1.5 The Joint Headquarters Programme Board meets on a regular basis to oversee each of the projects identified as being required to deliver a successful joint Police and Fire Headquarters in 2021/22. The Board reports on progress to the Collaboration Delivery Board and Strategic Collaboration Board.

2. REPORT

JOINT HEADQUARTERS (JHQ) PROGRAMME

- 2.1 The programme currently reports a 'Green' status with progress being made against the programme plan. A summary update on the key projects is provided for Members below:
- 2.2 **The Design Development – The Redevelopment Project (P1)**
Overall, this project remains on-track, is progressing well and remains under budget. The new build is now well-underway with the metal infrastructure now in place and brick work ongoing. Some delays were experienced due to freezing weather conditions, but these have not, at this point, impacted on anticipated progress. Some issues have arisen in terms of the mechanical and electrical design and these have been addressed with the relevant stakeholders.
- 2.3 Planning continues on the refurbishment of Sherwood Lodge, space allocation and road improvements to support the JHQ move in early 2022.

- 2.4 **The Legal Framework (P2) and Finance (P3)**
These projects have now been closed as the legal framework and financial aspects for the Joint Headquarters has been finalised and reported to Strategic Collaboration Board and Members previously.
- 2.5 **Human Resources and People (P4)**
Work is well underway for the necessary processes to ensure a smooth transition of personnel between the current Fire Headquarters and the new JHQ. These include vetting processes, a revised equality impact assessment, reasonable adjustments and workforce engagement including employee forums and joint meetings.
- 2.6 Branding is being established to ensure staff are aware of anything published that is relating to the move and to carry through to joint-branding at the JHQ.
- 2.7 **Estates Development (P5)**
A review of both Estates Teams is being undertaken to assess the feasibility of closer working and assess synergy of delivery models. A report will be presented to a future JHQ Programme Board.
- 2.8 **Decant from Bestwood Lodge (P6)**
Work is continuing on the high-level disposal options for the Bestwood Lodge site; these options and the findings, once the work is complete, will be presented to the Fire Authority for decision.
- 2.9 Legal searches on the Bestwood Lodge Site revealed four land and title issues; these related to the double registration of some parts of the site, a claim to a right of way and a number of land covenants. In February, the Fire Authority gave the authority to start work to resolve the four known issues with the land and title. NFRS are now working with their appointed solicitor to resolve these issues over the next twelve months.
- 2.10 **ICT Project (P7)**
Work continues against the project plan for completion of ICT enabling works across the Sherwood Lodge site. Work includes enabling the colocation of Fire Investigation and Crime Scene Investigation as a primary element of the JHQ colocation. 'Cloud' migration is underway and NFRS aim to be entirely 'cloud' based by the time of the JHQ move.
- 2.11 **Fire Investigation and CSI Colocation (P8)**
A new project stream is proposed to include the colocation of the Fire Investigation (FI) and Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) teams to provide greater governance and ensure consistency in approach with other project streams. This project had previously been presented as a standalone item which had been supported by the Strategic Collaboration Board.
- 2.12 NFRS FI Team management are meeting with colleagues from the CSI Department to progress the new ways of working in the shared CSI/FI department. It is anticipated that the teams will be co-located at Sherwood Lodge by May 2021.

OTHER COLLABORATION UPDATES

- 2.13 Building on the shared fuel supplies with Nottinghamshire Police, Police colleagues now have access to car washing facilities across the NFRS estate; reducing cost and time implications for personnel.
- 2.14 The Police and Fire drone has now been mobilised to over 30 fire related incidents and has provided valuable assistance at a range of incidents including water rescues, missing persons, large fire incidents and for fire investigations.

JOINT FIRE CONTROL

- 2.15 Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Joint Fire Control continues to deliver emergency call and incident management on behalf of both Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Fire Authorities. The performance of Joint Fire Control is monitored and reported to the Authority's Community Safety Committee on a quarterly basis. Performance levels are continually above the agreed measures. A review of current crewing practices is currently being undertaken to further improve Joint Fire Control's efficiency and effectiveness.

PREVENTION WORKSTREAMS

- 2.16 The Service continues to progress a number of collaborative workstreams within the Prevention department including 'rural intervention', Joint Police and Fire Cadets, the secondment of an Occupational Therapist from the NHS and the Child Home Equipment Safety Scheme with the County Council.

JOINT AUDIT AND INSPECTION TEAM

- 2.17 The Service continues to work with Nottingham City Council on the Joint Audit and Inspection Team (JAIT) which addresses the high risk, high-rise premises within the City through joint inspections. This collaborative working has now inspected over 120 premises and continues to address deficiencies in both fire safety and housing legislation.

STRATEGIC INTENT

- 2.18 At the February 2021 Fire Authority meeting, the Strategic Actions for 2021/22 under the current Strategic Plan were agreed. One of the Strategic Actions is 'Collaboration to Improve Community Outcomes'. This Strategic Action addresses the Service's move to JHQ as well as exploring other collaborative opportunities with other agencies and partners.
- 2.19 The Strategic Action also looks to evaluate current and completed collaborations to identify good practice, assess future opportunities and learn lessons from collaboration projects.

2.20 The Year Three Action is planned to review the Collaboration Framework to ensure that it remains current. This will be presented to Members in Spring 2022.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because the information contained in this report does not relate to a change in policy or procedure.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

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

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 NFRS has a statutory duty under the Policing and Crime Act 2017 to consider collaboration with other emergency services to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The Authority's strategy assists in discharging its statutory duties.

7.2 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 functions are delivered to communities.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

There are no collaboration implications arising from this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

10.1 Note the content of the report.

10.2 Agree to receive a revised Collaboration Framework for approval in Spring 2022.

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

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER