



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: 02 July 2021

Purpose of Report:

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

Recommendations:

That Members note the contents of this report.

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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 & 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 eight key projects are provided for Members below:
- 2.2 **The Design Development – The Redevelopment Project (P1)**
Overall, this project remains on-track, is progressing in line with plans and remains under budget. The new build element of the JHQ is due to be completed prior to Christmas 2021 and the development works on the current Sherwood Lodge building due to be complete by the end of March 2022.
- 2.3 Planning continues on space allocation and road improvements to support the JHQ move with associated meetings continuing to be held on a frequent basis.
- 2.4 Issues relating to the mechanical and electrical design for JHQ have been raised with the contractor and are progressing to a resolution.

- 2.5 **The Legal Framework (P2) and Finance (P3)**
These projects have been closed as the legal framework and financial aspects for the Joint Headquarters have been finalised and reported to Strategic Collaboration Board and Members previously.
- 2.6 **Human Resources and People (P4)**
Work continues to progress 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.
- 2.7 A joint employee forum was held on the 28 April 2021 and a joint employee update event was hosted on the 29 April 2021 where over 100 employees from both services attended.
- 2.8 Branding is being established, influenced by the workforce, to ensure a presence of joint-branding at the JHQ.
- 2.9 **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 through the collaborative governance structure in July 2021.
- 2.10 **Decant from Bestwood Lodge (P6)**
Work is continuing on the high-level disposal options for the Bestwood Lodge site. Final options will be presented to the Fire Authority for decision in July 2021.
- 2.11 **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, including additional internet capacity to support the move. 'Cloud' migration is underway and NFRS aim to be entirely 'cloud' based by the time of the JHQ move.
- 2.12 **Fire Investigation and CSI Colocation (P8)**
Work has begun on the necessary, agreed amendments to the CSI offices in order to facilitate the colocation. These works are anticipated to complete by the end of June 2021 with colocation of the teams following soon after.
- 2.13 The two teams have met regularly to discuss ways-of-working, opportunities and to form stronger relationships ahead of their colocation; the first formal element of the JHQ move.
- 2.14 The teams are expected to transition to the new way of working over the summer 2021.

OTHER COLLABORATION UPDATES

- 2.15 Police and Fire continue to benefit from shared estates at Highfields, West Bridgford and Carlton fire stations. The colocation of teams has enabled greater value for money from the estate and facilitated closer working between teams.
- 2.16 The joint Police and Fire drone has now been mobilised to over 35 fire related incidents and over 150 police related incidents. The drone has provided valuable assistance at a range of incidents including water rescues, missing persons, large fire incidents and fire investigations, as well as wide area searches for offenders, containment of areas and supporting proactive police operations.

JOINT FIRE CONTROL

- 2.17 The Joint Fire Control room continues to operate an emergency response function for both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire as part of the Tri-Service Fire Control arrangements (alongside Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service).
- 2.18 Regular performance meetings are held with Derbyshire colleagues to review operations in the Control function as well as a dedicated liaison at middle-manager level within the Service.
- 2.19 Performance in call handling and mobilisations continues to exceed the expected standards as required by the Service.

PREVENTION WORKSTREAMS

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

STRATEGIC INTENT

- 2.21 In line with the Year Three Strategic Action of 'Collaboration to Improve Community Outcomes', under the current Strategic Plan which was approved at the February 2021 Fire Authority meeting, a collaborative meeting for Members with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Fire Authority is being planned for later in 2021.
- 2.22 This meeting will present an opportunity for Members to discuss the current collaborations and explore future opportunities with elected Members from Derbyshire.

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

That Members note the contents of this report.

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

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER