



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: 04 February 2022

Purpose of Report:

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

Recommendations:

That Members note the contents of this report.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 The Board regularly reports on progress to the Collaboration Delivery Board and Strategic Collaboration Board.

2. REPORT

JOINT HEADQUARTERS (JHQ) PROGRAMME

- 2.1 Issues relating to supply-chain delays, and subsequent impacts, have led to the delay of 'practical completion' on the Joint Headquarters new build project. This saw a delay of completion from 20 December 2021, as planned, to 20 January 2022.
- 2.2 On 10 January 2022, the Fire Investigation team co-located in the refurbished accommodation now shared with the Crime Scene Investigation team, vacating their previous accommodation at Mansfield Fire Station.
- 2.3 On 17 January 2022, the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) People and Organisational Development (POD) team moved from Bestwood Lodge to Sherwood Lodge. They have occupied the ground floor of the new building, along with colleagues from the Police Human Resources team.
- 2.4 The relocation of Pulp Friction from Bestwood Lodge to Sherwood Lodge will take place at the beginning of February. This will see them take up residence in the newly fitted restaurant facilities within the new-build premises at Sherwood Lodge.

A summary update on the eight key projects is provided for Members below:

- 2.5 **The New Build Development and Redevelopment project (P1)**
This project has experienced some delays due to supply chain issues and subsequent impacts on development. The new build element of the JHQ reached 'practical completion' on 20 January 2021 and was marked with the formal 'hand-over of keys' ceremony on this date. The development works on the current Sherwood Lodge building are now underway and are due for completion by June 2022.
- 2.6 A number of areas of development continue on the Sherwood Lodge site including additional car parking at the previous country park site to offer more spaces for staff and visitors, installation of a new higher-power generator for the site to offer more resilience, and continuing grounds work to improve accessibility.

- 2.7 Whilst the builders, Henry Brothers, have formally handed over the new-build project. They will remain responsible for 'snagging' and remedial works in the first 12 months of occupation.
- 2.8 Work has now started on preparing the area vacated by the Police Human Resources team where the Police and Fire Finance teams will be collocated from mid-February.
- 2.9 **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.
- 2.10 The financial costs of the Programme continue to be monitored closely however they are currently within budget and due to complete within the predicted spends. Members are reminded that the Service has a capped liability for contributions to the programme and therefore there is no risk of an over-expenditure for the Authority.
- 2.11 **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.
- 2.12 Regular joint employee meetings and staff engagement sessions are held to facilitate two-way communication. Steps are being taken to establish this as part of the long-term governance for JHQ and will feed into the Service's Collaboration Delivery Board.
- 2.13 **Estates Development (P5)**
A review of both Estates Teams was undertaken to explore potential further opportunities for collaboration. The review reported that, at this stage, there was limited scope for further collaboration and this workstream was closed.
- 2.14 The Service will continue to work closely with the Police to explore opportunities where closer working can bring efficiencies that improve our delivery of services to communities.
- 2.15 **Decant from Bestwood Lodge (P6)**
Work is continuing on the disposal options for the Bestwood Lodge site including necessary legal and planning preparations.
- 2.16 Work is underway to relocate the Service's Incident Command Training team to Mansfield station, which will also see the re-allocation of current space at the station to facilitate an upgrade to training facilities. Work also continues on the relocation of the Service's stores to Highfields Fire Station to facilitate the vacation of Bestwood Lodge.

2.17 **ICT Project (P7)**

Work has been facilitated to enable the People and Organisational Development Team and the Fire Investigation Team to work effectively from the JHQ site. Work continues on the wider estate infrastructure to ensure a smooth transition for personnel.

2.18 **Fire Investigation and CSI Colocation (P8)**

The move of the Fire Investigation team was completed on 10 January with minimal disruption to the team.

2.19 The two teams continue to meet regularly to discuss ways-of-working, opportunities and to form stronger relationships between the two teams.

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

The collaboration implications are considered within the body of 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