



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 February 2018

Purpose of Report:

To update Members on the progress of collaboration activities.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the Policy and Strategy Committee in November 2017 the Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented an update on the Service`s collaboration activities. This report outlined the initial areas of discussion which had taken place with other Emergency Services.
- 1.2 The Policing and Crime Act 2017 places a statutory duty on Police, Fire and Ambulance Services to consider collaboration to deliver efficiency, effectiveness and/or better outcomes for communities.
- 1.3 The new draft National Framework Document (NFD) also refers to the statutory duty placed on Fire and Rescue Authorities under the Policing and Crime Act 2017 but expands the expectation to collaborate with other fire and rescue authorities to deliver intraoperability.
- 1.4 Her Majesty`s Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) have indicated in their draft framework for 2018/19 that they will include an assessment of collaboration activities as part of their inspection regime. HMICFRS are due to inspect the Service in late 2018.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 As endorsed by the Authority in September 2017, the Service established a formal governance structure in conjunction with Nottinghamshire Police to provide an oversight on collaboration activities. The Delivery Board and Strategic Board have now met twice to assess and review progress with the five agreed workstreams. The current workstreams with Nottinghamshire Police are:
 - Shared estates;
 - Learning and development;
 - Organisational performance;
 - Prevention;
 - Emergency planning and resilience.
- 2.2 **Shared Estates** – the Service, in conjunction with Nottinghamshire Police and East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS), commissioned a review of their estates within the county. A key finding of the review has indicated that none of the current Service`s headquarters sites are suitable for co-location in their current format. Discussions have highlighted that joint management of estates has significant potential and a key task to explore options for the co-location of Fire and Police.
- 2.3 **Learning and Development** – initial progress has centred around the sharing of electronic education packages and prevention training around vulnerability be jointly delivered to both services. During 2018, the Police have a high volume of new student Police Officers joining the Service, therefore it is proposed that some of the new training cohorts be delivered

from Highfields fire station to create capacity within the Police training system.

- 2.4 **Organisational Performance** – Service leads have identified initial areas of information governance, consultation, mapping, business planning, risk management and performance to explore. The working group have highlighted overlap and similarities in the way that both services deliver the same function, particularly regarding the data that is required by HMICFRS. This work stream is currently awaiting Nottinghamshire Police's completion of its internal review of functions in this area, once complete this work will continue.
- 2.5 **Prevention** – the working group has developed an initial scoping document which identifies five areas of collaboration which can be delivered between both Services. These are information sharing, rural safety, road safety, direct youth engagement and school's engagement. It is anticipated that these five areas of collaboration can be implemented over the coming months, as well as explore wider ambition across this area.
- 2.6 **Emergency Planning and Resilience** – discussions have identified the possibility of sharing the Service's Welfare Unit to provide welfare support to Nottinghamshire Police at major incidents. In addition, the Police are keen to utilise NFRS's Fire Investigation Unit as a mobile briefing unit. Both vehicles would be jointly branded to reflect the dual Police and Fire and Rescue Service role.
- 2.7 In addition to the existing five workstreams discussions have identified a collaboration opportunity with Corporate Communication Teams. This has significant benefits when dealing with operational incidents, but would also allow each organisation to maintain their own bespoke internal communication messages.
- 2.8 Collaboration discussions also continue with Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service (DFRS), early indications highlight an appetite around the delivery of operational training. It is envisaged that further proposals will be discussed over coming months with a view to bringing proposals to the Authority in the Summer.
- 2.9 Since the adoption of the Collaboration strategy, significant resource has been committed to collaboration activities, developing partner relationships, establishing governance and administrative processes and considering the future requirements within Service business plans.
- 2.10 A collaboration register is now being maintained by the Service as a single point of reference which has proved useful in identifying the activity the organisation is engaged in.
- 2.11 The Head of Communications is proactively engaged with and supporting the national Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group (ESCWG) and has recently provided the current collaboration activities for national

publication. The Service is ensuring that the communication and publicity of collaboration is given greater priority and enhances the organisation's profile.

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, not achieving savings from collaboration clearly places pressure on other areas of the Service in future.
- 3.2 Collaboration with key partner organisations has the potential to produce financial savings for the Authority, forming part of future business cases presented to the Authority for consideration. However, collaborative savings are often delivered more in the medium to long-term and should be factored into future financial planning.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Collaboration within the Service is being co-ordinated by the Shaping Our Future Programme Team under the direction of the Area Manager, Strategic Support. The Team is currently being assisted by a Police Sergeant who is seconded from Nottinghamshire Police.
- 4.2 To ensure staff are well prepared for collaborative projects, additional training is being accessed with an external provider 'Shared Service Architects'. This will initially focus on the co-ordinating team and those employees highlighted to engage in the themed working groups, but is fully expected to expand.
- 4.3 Collaboration is proving to be a demand across the organisation and will require consideration when business planning, assuring the Services ability to progress business cases and commit resources.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken as no changes to the delivery of services have been highlighted in this report, these be included in any future business cases proposed.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

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

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 enable NFRS to secure improvements in the way that functions are delivered to communities and deliver positive outcomes.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Policing and Crime Act 2017 places a statutory duty to collaborate on the Authority. The collaboration strategy allows the Authority to demonstrate its commitment to consider collaboration with other emergency services therefore mitigating risk in this respect.
- 8.2 HMICFRS have indicated in their draft framework that they intend to review collaboration activities as part of the inspection process. The collaboration strategy allows the Authority to demonstrate its strategic intent to collaborate in the interests of efficiency, effectiveness and improving community outcomes.
- 8.3 The new draft National Framework document has indicated an expectation on the Service to be able to demonstrate that we have effective arrangements in place to consider collaborative opportunities with other emergency services.
- 8.4 The next Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) due for 2019 is fully expected that collaboration will form part of that plan. Each area of the plan will be assessed for collaborative opportunities with our partner agencies.

9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

This report provides Members with an update on collaboration work streams

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report and receive further update reports.

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

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER