



**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:** 11 May 2018

**Purpose of Report:**

To update Members on the progress on collaboration activities.

## CONTACT OFFICER

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the Policy and Strategy Committee in November 2018 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 Members will also be aware that collaboration forms an integral part of the Sustainability 2020 Strategy that aims to assist the Authority to meet its future financial challenges.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 The draft 2018 National Framework Document (NFD) also refers to the statutory duty placed on Fire & Rescue Authorities under the Policing and Crime Act 2017, but expands the expectation to collaborate with other fire and rescue authorities to deliver intraoperability.
- 1.5 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has indicated in their draft framework for 2018/19 that they will include an assessment of collaboration activities as part of their inspection regime. HMICFRS is due to inspect the Service in late 2018 as part of the second tranche of inspections.

## 2. REPORT

- 2.1 An established governance structure is now in place between Nottinghamshire Police and the Service, with both the Delivery Board and the Strategic Board meeting on a regular basis. The Boards monitor progress of each of the collaboration workstreams and give direction to the theme leads.
- 2.2 The current collaboration workstreams with Nottinghamshire Police are Shared Estates, Learning and Development, Organisational Performance, Prevention, Emergency Planning, and Corporate Communications.
- 2.3 **Shared Estates** – a joint procurement exercise has recently been carried with Nottinghamshire Police to appoint consultants to complete an options appraisal for a joint Police and Fire HQ. The scope includes a 'do nothing' option, re-location to Sherwood Lodge, re-development of either Sherwood Lodge or Bestwood Lodge or a new joint HQ on a different site.
- 2.4 The options appraisal is scheduled for completion during the summer 2018 when the report will be presented to the next Collaboration Strategic Board and Members of the Fire Authority for consideration and decision if required.

- 2.5 **Learning and Development** – Nottinghamshire Police has commenced using Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) premises to deliver aspects of training to their Officers and staff. Currently they are using both Service Development Centre (SDC) and Highfields Fire Station. It is proposed that from 2019, NFRS and Nottinghamshire Police look to explore the delivery of joint leadership training.
- 2.6 In addition, Nottinghamshire Police are looking to procure specific driver training from the Service to assure the delivery of key Police capabilities. This will build upon the ongoing work with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service's driver training function.
- 2.7 **Organisational Performance** – Corporate Services are currently engaging with Nottinghamshire Police to learn from their experiences regarding HMICFRS. This will assist with the Service's upcoming inspection later this year.
- 2.8 **Prevention** – Nottinghamshire Police and the Service have started to develop and implement several joint prevention initiatives. These have included school visits, road safety, vulnerable people and homelessness. It is the intention that an annual forward plan will be developed between both organisations so that a comprehensive programme of joint prevention activities can be implemented.
- 2.9 **Emergency Planning and Resilience** – the Welfare Unit is in the process of being re-branded as a joint Police/Fire and Rescue Service vehicle. This will then allow both Service's to have access to the vehicle for operational incidents. A tendering process has also commenced to adapt the current Fire Investigation (FI) Unit into a multi-purpose FI/Police Command Unit.
- 2.10 The Service has also agreed to manage a small amount of emergency planning operational equipment on behalf of Nottinghamshire Police, delivering this equipment to major incidents on behalf of the Police.
- 2.11 **Corporate Communications** – the PCC has commissioned a review of communication across Nottinghamshire Police and Safer Nottinghamshire Board. The Collaboration Delivery Board, with agreement from the PCC, decided to include our Service within the scope of this review.
- 2.12 The review will provide a current position and provision and advise on options available to enhance the delivery of communications services in the future. The subsequent report will help inform the shape and delivery of Corporate Communications for each organisation, once the report has been received an options appraisal will be carried out and brought to Members.
- 2.13 The Area Manager (Strategic Support) has established a series of regular meetings with his counterpart in Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS) and examples of success are seen from the joint use of environmental protection and command support vehicles to the use of DFRS training centre for compartment fire behaviour training. As this relationship develops further

it is anticipated that areas of collaboration will be identified, which will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of both Services.

- 2.14 A joint Members' seminar is now programmed for June 2018 providing opportunity to discuss areas of common, potential interest to respective Authority's.
- 2.15 The Service's communications team are supporting the national Emergency Service Collaboration Working Group (ESCWG) and have recently supported the delivery of the national ESCWG conference, held jointly by the Home Office. This provides access to a wider collaborative network and sees the Service recognised for its commitment.
- 2.16 The communications team over the last year has been directed to ensure that the profile of the Service is much better placed to share and celebrate all collaborations, this has resulted in a number of positive news and publicity items within the sector.

### **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 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 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.

### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken at this stage, these will form part of any future business cases that are 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 deeper 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 allow NFRS to secure improvements in the way that functions are delivered to communities

## **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 has indicated in their draft framework that they intend to review collaboration activities as part of their assessment of the Service. 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 recent draft National Framework Document has indicated an expectation on the Service to be able to demonstrate that it has effective arrangements in place to consider collaborative opportunities with other emergency services
- 8.4 The Integrated Risk Management Plan currently being developed is fully expected to see collaboration form part of that plan. Each area of the plan will be assessed for collaborative opportunities with identified partners.

## **9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS**

This report provides Members with an update on collaboration work streams

## **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**