



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority

# COLLABORATION UPDATE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

**Date:** 14 December 2018

**Purpose of Report:**

To update Members on collaboration activity and achievements to date.

## CONTACT OFFICER

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 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. The 2018 National Framework Document also makes reference to this.
- 1.2 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has indicated in its framework for 2018/19 that it will include an assessment of collaboration activities as part of its inspection regime. HMICFRS is due to inspect the Service in early 2019.
- 1.3 The Service's Collaboration Strategy was approved by Members at the Fire Authority meeting in September 2017. This formed part of the Sustainability Strategy 2020 which aims to assist the Authority to meet its future financial challenges.
- 1.4 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. A Joint Strategic Collaboration Board has also been established between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Fire Authorities.

## **2. REPORT**

- 2.1 An initial five collaboration workstreams were agreed jointly with Nottinghamshire Police; these are: Shared Estates, Learning and Development, Organisational Performance, Prevention, and Emergency Planning and Resilience. This report will provide an update on the various collaboration projects within these workstreams
- 2.2 Work is also under way to share estate with East Midlands Ambulance Service; updates on this are included in this report.
- 2.3 A separate report to the Authority will update Members on work being carried out to develop a business case for a Joint Fire Control with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.

### **SHARED ESTATES**

- 2.4 Following the completion of an options appraisal for a Joint Police and Fire Headquarters, the Authority gave its approval in September 2018 for the development of a detailed business case.
- 2.5 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service's (NFRS) Head of Estates and Procurement has been appointed Programme Manager for the project and the already established Police-Fire Collaboration Delivery Board now also sits as the Joint HQ Programme Board. NFRS representation at

Nottinghamshire Police's HQ Redevelopment Project is also in place, with this group reporting into the Joint HQ Programme Manager.

- 2.6 A programme structure is in place which will form the basis of ongoing objectives and projects; this will evolve and be updated as the programme develops. Work is under way to identify project leads and objectives for each of the following workstreams: Legal and Governance, Finance, People, ICT, Estates Development.
- 2.7 A solicitor is engaged in work relating to the legal and governance framework and costs are being closely examined. Risk critical information relating to such things as utilities and ICT is also being considered.
- 2.8 Regular updates are taken to the Collaboration Delivery Board and Strategic Collaboration Board. A detailed business case for the proposal of a Joint Police-Fire HQ will be brought to Fire Authority in February 2019.
- 2.9 Nottinghamshire Police's Neighbourhood Policing Team is due to move into their office at London Road fire station, making London Road the first fire station in Nottinghamshire to accommodate all three emergency services. Nottingham City Council's Emergency Planning Team is also based there, and British Transport Police has been allocated space as part of their business continuity arrangements.

## **LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- 2.10 Nottinghamshire Police continue to utilise 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; Carlton and Retford fire stations have also been identified as possible venues for operational Police training.
- 2.11 Work is ongoing to establish joint/reciprocal driver training between NFRS and Nottinghamshire Police. This will take the form of NFRS providing D1 (light vehicle) driver training to Nottinghamshire Police officers, and the Police providing 'blue light' car driver training to NFRS officers.

## **ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE**

- 2.12 NFRS Corporate Support staff continue to engage with Nottinghamshire Police to learn from their experiences regarding HMICFRS. This will assist with the Service's upcoming inspection early next year.

## **PREVENTION**

- 2.13 Work continues to develop and implement joint prevention initiatives between Nottinghamshire Police and NFRS. These have included joint training for schools liaison officers and those dealing with vulnerable members of the community, school visits, road safety, and a successful ongoing rural crime initiative. Work to identify further opportunities relating to vulnerable people and homelessness is also under way.

- 2.14 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. This will also consider opportunities to include other partners such as health and social care providers and the Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership.
- 2.15 Additional discussions have taken place relating to community engagement, hate crime, young people, cadets and volunteers, mental health and wellbeing, coaching and mentoring, the deaf community and the sharing of information via the Pegasus system, and these will be progressed in the coming months.

## **EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESILIENCE**

- 2.16 The Welfare Unit has now been rebranded as a joint Police/Fire and Rescue Service vehicle and is being used by both Services for operational incidents and planned events such as public safety/public order, crime scene preservation and operational training. The agreement in place is working well, with Nottinghamshire Police Officers giving positive feedback on their ability to use this facility.
- 2.17 Work is under way to establish closer working relationships between Nottinghamshire Police's Underwater Dive Team and NFRS' water rescue capability. This will take the form of increased joint training, resilience around the use of rescue boats and water rescue equipment, and a joint approach to bank, surface and shallow water line searches.
- 2.18 There are ongoing discussions to formalise and extend the close working arrangements between NFRS' Emergency Planning and Resilience lead and Nottinghamshire Police's Emergency Planning Team. This is already proving successful on an informal basis. The possibility of a future joint Operations Team is also being investigated.
- 2.19 A proposal for the joint procurement and operation of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (drone) by NFRS and Nottinghamshire Police was considered by the Strategic Collaboration Board. It was agreed that NFRS will make a capital contribution to the cost of Nottinghamshire Police owning and operating this resource, with the agreement that NFRS can request the drone when it would be operationally advantageous.

## **DERBYSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

- 2.20 In addition to the ongoing work towards a possible Joint Fire Control for the two Services, opportunities for further collaboration continue to be investigated. A number of areas for collaboration activity were identified by the Joint Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Fire Authority Strategic Collaboration Board; these are: operational training, sharing of specialist Tactical Advisors, Fire Protection including fire engineering, and specialist response to terrorism incidents.

- 2.21 The Area Manager (Strategic Support) undertakes regular meetings with the DFERS Collaboration lead and examples of current success can be seen in the joint use of Environmental Protection and Command Support vehicles, the use of the DFERS training centre by NFRS for compartment fire behaviour training, and ongoing work around joint incident command and driver training.
- 2.22 The Shaping Our Future Programme Team, along with Heads of Department and other senior managers, will continue to explore all avenues for future collaboration where there is the potential to increase efficiency and effectiveness, and improve public safety.
- 2.23 The Service continues to seize opportunities to share collaboration experiences with other emergency services across the UK, by feeding into established networks such as the Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group and drawing on existing contacts and relationships.

### **EAST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE (EMAS)**

- 2.24 Work is ongoing for the proposed redevelopment of Hucknall Ambulance Station to become a tri-service station for NFRS, Nottinghamshire Police and EMAS. NFRS has completed the tender process and a preferred contractor has been identified to undertake the works to the Fire side only. However, the agreement to lease with EMAS remains outstanding with the legal documents currently with solicitors for both organisations. It is anticipated that all legal documents will be signed by 1 January 2019 allowing the preferred contractor to be appointed. Should this be the case, construction works should start on site no later than April 2019.
- 2.25 Work for a new joint Fire and Ambulance Station with EMAS at Worksop has been temporarily paused due to ongoing negotiations for the rights to lay services to the site; these negotiations are being undertaken by the land owner and owner of the adjacent business park. It is anticipated that once the rights have been granted to the site, NFRS can then purchase the land and proceed with the project.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The Sustainability Strategy 2020 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.
- 3.3 Some initial capital investment may be required and this will be included in individual business cases.

#### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Collaboration activity within the Service is co-ordinated by the Shaping Our Future Programme Team under the direction of the Area Manager, Strategic Support. The team works closely with collaboration leads from Nottinghamshire Police, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service and other collaborative partner agencies.
- 4.2 As the level and complexity of collaboration activity increases, it is likely that the impact and expectation on Heads of Department and other senior managers will also increase. This will need to be considered alongside current workloads and responsibilities.
- 4.3 Any potential re-location of staff resulting from projects such as a Joint Police-Fire HQ will need to be effectively managed.

#### **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 revised 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 consulted on includes collaboration as a key objective. 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 workstreams.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the contents of this report.

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

None.

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**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**