



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: 12 July 2019

Purpose of Report:

To update Members on the progress of collaboration activities.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In September 2018, Members of the Fire Authority approved the Service's Collaboration Strategy, which set out the Service's intention to collaborate, where appropriate, with its partner agencies, primarily emergency services, in the interests of efficiency, effectiveness or improving community outcomes.
- 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 and is integral to the current Strategic Plan 2019-22.
- 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 National Framework Document 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 interoperability.
- 1.5 An assessment of collaboration activities was included as part of the inspection carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) earlier this year.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Since the launch of the Collaboration Strategy in 2017, a number of collaboration workstreams have been established and these continue to grow in both effectiveness and scope.
- 2.2 The governance structure in place between the Service and Nottinghamshire Police is now well-established and working well, 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.
- 2.3 The relationship between Nottinghamshire Police and the Service continues to grow in strength at all levels of the two organisations; this has contributed to progress made in all five of the initial collaboration workstreams identified with Nottinghamshire Police: Shared Estates, Learning and Development, Organisational Performance, Prevention and Emergency Planning.
- 2.4 Work is also under way on a tri-service response hub in Hucknall; an update on this is included in this report.
- 2.5 Joint Fire Control with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service went live on 1 July 2019 and an outturn report will be presented to the Fire Authority on this topic in September.

- 2.6 **Shared Estates** – the Authority gave its approval in September 2018 for the development of a detailed business case for a Joint Police and Fire Headquarters at the existing Sherwood Lodge site. This has now been approved and work is under way to a specific programme, with staff expected to move onto the redeveloped site in Autumn 2021.
- 2.7 A Joint Headquarters (JHQ) Programme Board has been established, and the project leads and deputies identified for each of the projects that form the JHQ programme. These are the redevelopment of the JHQ, legal and governance, finance, people, estates development, and ICT.
- 2.8 Legal advice has been sought to establish the legal and governance framework, finances and taxation impacts continue to be closely monitored, and risk critical information relating to such things as ICT and utilities are being considered.
- 2.9 Work has been ongoing on the design of the new building which will form part of the new JHQ, and attention paid to the design and capacity of shared areas such as office accommodation, car parking, the canteen and recreation areas. A planning application has been submitted to Gedling Borough Council for the redevelopment of the site.
- 2.10 Staff communication and engagement is key to the success of the JHQ Programme and a joint communications plan with Nottinghamshire Police is being developed. A joint employee event, Starting the Conversation, was held on 12 June 2019 and this was successful in bringing together staff from both organisations to share hopes, fears and ideas for future collaboration.
- 2.11 Members will be updated on the JHQ Programme as it develops; regular updates are also taken to the Collaboration Delivery Board and Strategic Collaboration Board.
- 2.12 A business case is currently being finalised for a shared Police and Fire Station in West Bridgford; this would see Nottinghamshire Police vacating their current police station in the town and moving to the fire station.
- 2.13 A scoping exercise is being carried out into the provision of desk space and training facilities for members of Nottinghamshire Police's driver training, personal safety and first aid training teams across the NFRS estate.
- 2.14 These, and all opportunities for collaboration, will be submitted and approved through the Delivery Board and Strategic Board, and the Service's own internal governance.
- 2.15 Work has begun on the new tri-service hub in Hucknall, which will be shared by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS), Nottinghamshire Police and East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS). The hub is at EMAS's existing station in Annesley Road and work is expected to be completed next year.

- 2.16 **Learning and Development** – a business case is being developed for the joint procurement and delivery of leadership and management training for Nottinghamshire Police and NFRS. Joint coaching and mentoring programmes are also being explored.
- 2.17 **Organisational Performance** – Corporate Support staff continue to engage with their counterparts at Nottinghamshire Police to learn from, and build on, their experiences regarding HMICFRS.
- 2.18 **Prevention** – a joint cadets programme has been established by Nottinghamshire Police and the Service, and the initial eight-week course has taken place in the Hyson Green area of the city. The next cadet course is due to begin in September, and there are plans to roll this out to other areas in the future.
- 2.19 Prevention leads from both Nottinghamshire Police and the Service are exploring the possibility of a joint Specialist Home Safety Team, which would visit vulnerable people at home to deliver fire safety and crime prevention advice.
- 2.20 Work to deliver a joint schools education programme and joint road safety initiatives between the Police and NFRS is ongoing.
- 2.21 **Emergency Planning and Resilience** – the jointly branded Police and Fire Welfare Unit is now in use by both organisations. The agreement is working well and the availability of this resource has been welcomed and appreciated by Police colleagues at operational incidents.
- 2.22 The Service's emergency planning lead officer continues to work closely with his counterparts in Nottinghamshire Police to share learning and intelligence, and improve resilience.
- 2.23 A collaboration agreement is in place to allow Nottinghamshire Police to access bunkered fuel from some NFRS premises. Discussions are taking place to extend this to include access to jet washing facilities on fire stations for the Police.
- 2.24 A joint Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (drone) has now been purchased and will be operated by Nottinghamshire Police on behalf of the two organisations. Nottinghamshire Police staff are currently being trained as pilots and the drone is expected to be operational by September 2019.
- 2.25 **Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS)** – the last 12 months have seen a focus on planning and implementing the new Joint Fire Control for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The Area Manager Corporate Support continues to meet regularly with his counterpart in Derbyshire and will explore future opportunities for collaboration for consideration by the NFRS and DFRS Joint Strategic Board.
- 2.26 **South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service** – initial meetings have taken place with colleagues in South Yorkshire and a number of opportunities are

being discussed, including joint e-learning packages and mutual support in the areas of Fire Protection and Fire Investigation.

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 Area Manager Corporate Support and the Collaboration Project Support Officer.
- 4.2 To ensure staff are well prepared for collaborative projects, additional training may be accessed. The Service will also continue to be active within regional and national collaboration networks, to ensure the Service remains connected and open to opportunities to collaborate with other emergency services and partner agencies.

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 Assessment of the Service's collaboration activities forms part of the inspection by HMICFRS. 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 National Framework Document places 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 Service's Strategic Plan (formerly Integrated Risk Management Plan) includes collaboration as a key area of work. 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
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