



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: 08 November 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 Strategy 2020, which 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 2018 National Framework Document also refers to the statutory duty placed on fire and rescue authorities under the Policing and Crime Act 2017, but also expands the expectation to collaborate with other fire and rescue authorities.
- 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.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 The governance structure in place between the Service and Nottinghamshire Police is now well-established and working well, with both the Collaboration Delivery Board and the Strategic Collaboration Board meeting on a regular basis. The Boards monitor progress of each of the collaboration workstreams and give direction to the theme leads.
- 1.8 A similar governance structure is also established with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, and a number of potential collaboration workstreams have been identified for future exploration.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 **Joint Fire Control** – the project to establish a Joint Fire Control for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire was completed on 01 July 2019, and the transition to a joint control function for the two counties has gone well.
- 2.2 A structure for addressing any issues arising from the change in working practices, and to monitor the continuous improvement of the Joint Fire Control, is in place.

- 2.3 Since 1 July, the Joint Fire Control has handled over 21,000 calls; of these, approximately 12,000 were administrative calls and 9,000 were emergency calls. Of the 5,100 incidents logged from 1 July to the beginning of September 2,800 were in Nottinghamshire, 1,900 in Derbyshire, 30 were Leicestershire incidents and 80 were outside of the tri-service area.
- 2.4 **Joint Headquarters (JHQ)** – work to establish a Joint Police and Fire Headquarters at Sherwood Lodge is continuing as planned, with each of the seven projects that form the JHQ Programme reporting in to the JHQ Programme Board.
- 2.5 The Programme Manager monitors progress and reports to the Police and Fire Strategic Collaboration and Collaboration Delivery Boards on a regular basis.
- 2.6 A decision on the planning application for the redevelopment of the Sherwood Lodge site is expected imminently. Enabling works have commenced on the Sherwood Lodge site in preparation, and this includes the identification of a number of trees for removal and the removal and pre-fabricated buildings.
- 2.7 The design of the new building is being finalised and takes into account the findings of an equality and access survey. Accessible parking and electric vehicle charging points are also included in the plans.
- 2.8 Should planning permission be granted, the contract tender period will take place between December 2019 and March 2020. Approximately 30 contractors expressed an interest in the pre-qualification questionnaire for the redevelopment contract, and this has been shortlisted to six contractors who will be invited to tender.
- 2.9 On-going work is being undertaken for the formation of a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) between the Fire Authority and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire. Advice has been sought to establish the LLP's legal and governance framework, finances and taxation matters.
- 2.10 Pulp Friction, the not-for-profit organisation that currently provides a catering and canteen service to Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS), has been invited to move to the new JHQ; a project manager has been appointed to develop a business case and to manage the transition.
- 2.11 Staff communication and engagement is key to the success of the JHQ Programme and a joint communications plan with Nottinghamshire Police is being developed. This will include a programme of internal communications, consultation and joint Police and Fire employee engagement events.
- 2.12 A new NFRS procedure on Police vetting has been drafted and will be implemented to help guide and support NFRS staff through the vetting process as the programme progresses.

- 2.13 **Highfields Fire Station** – a number of Nottinghamshire Police staff moved in to Highfields fire station at the beginning of October to co-locate with NFRS teams. It is expected that the police driver training team will be permanently based there and will run driving courses from Highfields and other NFRS locations, while the officer safety and first aid training teams will be temporarily located there until they move to the new JHQ when completed.
- 2.14 It is anticipated that as well as co-locating, this collaboration will offer opportunities for greater integration, information sharing and sharing of best practice between Police and Fire teams leading to further collaboration opportunities and greater organisational understanding.
- 2.15 **West Bridgford Police and Fire Station** – work has begun at West Bridgford to create a joint Police and Fire station which will enable Nottinghamshire Police to vacate their current West Bridgford police station and co-locate with colleagues from NFRS.
- 2.16 The work includes some internal development and the creation of additional parking (subject to planning permission), and is due for completion by the end of March 2020.
- 2.17 **Hucknall Joint Emergency Services Hub** – work is nearing completion on a joint Police, Fire and Ambulance station at East Midlands Ambulance Service’s existing station in Annesley Road, Hucknall.
- 2.18 Fire personnel are due to move in to the building in November, with the Police moving in February 2020. An official launch event will take place next year once a date has been confirmed between the three agencies.
- 2.19 **Learning and Development** – NFRS is looking to source an external provider for an ILM L5 Certificate in Management in early 2020, with the option of some places being offered to Nottinghamshire Police personnel. Joint coaching and mentoring programmes are also being explored.
- 2.20 **Prevention** – a number of workstreams are on-going with Nottinghamshire Police and some have now become ‘business as usual’; these include the joint rural crime initiative and schools’ education programme, which sees NFRS District Prevention Officers and the Nottinghamshire Police Schools and Early Intervention Officer delivering joint safety packages to children across the county.
- 2.21 The former ‘Operation Highway’ road safety initiative has now been renamed ‘Operation Thought’.
- 2.22 The new ‘Operation Thought’ will be launched in early November with an intervention targeting motorists at the A614 / A60 roundabout at Redhill. A joint initiative will also take place in Mansfield and Ashfield with Nottinghamshire Police’s Roads Policing Team, with a focus on dangerous driving.

- 2.23 The Service's Executive Delivery Team has approved a proposal for a Station Manager to be seconded to Nottinghamshire Police's Camera Safety Team, where he will work jointly on bringing 'driver education' in-house and be the Service lead on 'Operation Thought'.
- 2.24 A joint Police and Fire cadets programme has been established and, following a successful initial eight-week course in the Hyson Green area of the city, a second course has begun at Highfields fire station.
- 2.25 A further three locations are currently being identified for 2020, with plans to utilise on-call firefighters to deliver the courses jointly with the Police. A bid is due to be made for sustainable funding to enable the joint cadets programme to continue.
- 2.26 Prevention leads from both Nottinghamshire Police and NFRS are exploring the possibility of a joint Specialist Home Safety Team, which would visit vulnerable people and victims of crime at home, to deliver fire safety and crime prevention advice. A scoping document detailing approximate costs and a proposed delivery model is due to go to the Collaboration Delivery Board in November.
- 2.27 **Emergency Planning and Resilience** – the agreement allowing Nottinghamshire Police to access bunkered fuel from NFRS premises is in place and working well. Discussions are on-going to extend this to include access to jet washing facilities on fire stations for the Police.
- 2.28 A number of Nottinghamshire Police officers have been trained to pilot the joint unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) and are currently undertaking competency flights, with a view to it being made available as an operational resource by the end of the year.
- 2.29 **Access to Fire Stations for Welfare** – approximately 150 officers from Nottinghamshire Police's Operational Support Team have been issued with NFRS partner access/ID cards to allow them to use welfare facilities at NFRS fire stations whilst on shift. This may be rolled out to other Nottinghamshire Police teams, such as Neighbourhood Policing, if it proves successful.
- 2.30 **Fire Investigation and Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Co-location** – work is on-going to develop the area at Sherwood Lodge currently occupied by the CSI teams to enable NFRS fire investigators to co-locate. This will improve information and intelligence sharing, joint working and adoption of best practice across the two teams.
- 2.31 **Training** – the training houses at Carlton and Retford fire stations are being used by Nottinghamshire Police for training on a regular basis.

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 The Joint Fire Control will generate a saving of approximately £350k per annum.
- 3.3 Sharing of NFRS estate with partner agencies such as Nottinghamshire Police will generate an annual rental income that will off-set the running costs of premises.
- 3.4 Future collaboration has the potential to produce financial savings for the Authority, forming part of future business cases. However, collaborative savings are often delivered more in the medium to long-term and should be factored in to 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.
- 4.3 As collaboration activity continues it is likely to impact on the day-to-day work of NFRS staff, with collaboration projects eventually becoming 'business as usual'.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken for this report as these form part of any 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 Fire 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 2018 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 Service's Strategic Plan (the Integrated Risk Management Plan) includes collaboration as a key area of future work. Each area of the plan will be assessed for collaborative opportunities with identified partners.
- 8.5 Work is being undertaken to ensure that the appropriate policies and procedures relating to health and safety, risk management, and information communication technology security are in place and have been issued to any personnel who are co-located at NFRS premises, or using them on a regular basis.

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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