



**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:** 31 January 2020

**Purpose of Report:**

To update Members on the progress of collaboration activities.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Members:

- Note the contents of this report.
- Endorse the Service's pro-active approach to collaboration.

## CONTACT OFFICER

**Name:** Ian Pritchard  
Assistant Chief Officer

**Tel:** 0115 967 0880

**Email:** [ian.pritchard@notts-fire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.pritchard@notts-fire.gov.uk)

**Media Enquiries Contact:** Therese Easom  
(0115) 967 0880 [therese.easom@notts-fire.gov.uk](mailto:therese.easom@notts-fire.gov.uk)

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Since approval by the Fire Authority of the Service's Collaboration Strategy in September 2018, work has been on-going to identify opportunities to collaborate with partner agencies, primarily emergency services, in the interests of efficiency, effectiveness or improving community outcomes.
- 1.2 A large proportion of this work has taken place with colleagues at Nottinghamshire Police, however, collaboration projects are also on-going with fire and rescue services in Derbyshire, Leicestershire and South Yorkshire, and with East Midlands Ambulance Service.
- 1.3 Members will be aware that collaboration formed an integral part of the Sustainability Strategy 2020, which aimed to assist the Authority to meet its future financial challenges.
- 1.4 To date a number of projects have been realised, some of which have now become business as usual. These include a Joint Control function for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, joint procurement and use of bunkered fuel with Nottinghamshire Police, and co-location of Police training colleagues at Highfields fire station.
- 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) last year. The future embedding and evaluation of collaboration projects remains an important part of the Service's HMICFRS action plan and the ten priorities identified for the coming year.
- 1.6 The Police-Fire Collaboration Delivery Board and Strategic Collaboration Board meet on a regular basis. The Boards monitor progress of each of the collaboration workstreams and give direction to the theme leads.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 The Joint Headquarters Programme Board meets on a regular basis to oversee each of the projects identified as being required to deliver a successful joint Police and Fire Headquarters in 2021/22. The Board reports on progress to the Collaboration Delivery Board and Strategic Collaboration Board.

## 2. REPORT

- 2.1 **Joint Headquarters (JHQ)** – planning permission for the redevelopment of the Sherwood Lodge site, including the construction of a new building, was granted by Gedling Borough Council on 5 December 2019. A number of conditions were cited, however none of these are considered to present

additional risks to the programme and all will be addressed as part of the redevelopment project.

- 2.2 Enabling works, including the removal of a number of trees and some pre-fabricated buildings, have begun on the Sherwood Lodge site in preparation for the construction work. Work has also been completed to prepare the area designated as a memorial garden to fallen Police and Fire colleagues – the next phase will be the installation of marble obelisks which will bear the names of those to be remembered, along with plants and seating. It is anticipated the memorial garden will be formally opened in May 2020.
- 2.3 Work is on-going to establish 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.
- 2.4 The RIBA Stage 4 (architect's update) has been presented to and approved by the JHQ Programme Board. The 'Invitation to Tender' window opened to the six shortlisted contractors on Friday 24 January 2020 and interviews are scheduled for 18 and 19 March. This will be followed by tender evaluation by the project team.
- 2.5 **West Bridgford Police and Fire Station** – internal works are progressing well and are due to be completed in accordance with the scheduled programme. An application for planning consent for the external works was submitted to Rushcliffe Borough Council, but this was not approved. The Council has requested an amended proposal for the parking areas, requiring a hard-bound surface with drainage as opposed to the 'grasscrete' surface proposed in the planning application. Re-worked plans have been submitted.
- 2.6 The delay in planning will have an impact on the overall programme, cost and the planned moving in date for Nottinghamshire Police. The Service is working closely with the Police and the works contractor to update the project plan and produce a revised budget.
- 2.7 **Ambulance, Police and Fire Station, Hucknall** – the Service's on-call firefighters have moved into the new Ambulance, Police and Fire Station at East Midlands Ambulance Service's existing base in Annesley Road, Hucknall. Nottinghamshire Police is due to move in to the building next month, and an official launch event is being scheduled for March 2020.
- 2.8 **Prevention** – a number of work streams are on-going with Nottinghamshire Police with regards to prevention activity. Work to build on previous achievements and embed a joint rural intervention programme to target risks in rural communities is underway, while plans are being developed to deliver CHARLIE referral training (a profile developed by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) of those people who are most at risk from fire and other incidents in the home) to PCSOs and PCs.

- 2.9 A review is due to take place of the joint Police and Fire cadets' programme currently being run at Highfields fire station, with a proposal to run two additional programmes at alternative locations in 2020/21.
- 2.10 The Service's prevention team is working on proposals to improve and develop the Nottinghamshire Road Safety Partnership to effectively deliver co-ordinated collaborative road safety education and initiatives.
- 2.11 A business case is being developed to recruit two joint (Police and Fire) Home Safety Operatives on a trial/fixed term basis to prioritise engagement and interventions with vulnerable people who are at risk, or have been victims, of crime. Their work would focus on delivering fire safety and crime prevention advice and implementing practical support and solutions.
- 2.12 **Emergency Planning and Resilience** – a legal agreement is being finalised and costs have been agreed to allow Nottinghamshire Police to access jet washing facilities on fire stations for its vehicle fleet. The agreement will be for an initial 12-month period, after which it will be reviewed.
- 2.13 **Joint Drone** – the joint drone with Nottinghamshire Police went live on 6 January 2020 and is available on a 24/7 basis for deployment to Police and/or Fire incidents. The drone can be requested through Police Control and deployment is at the discretion of the Police Control Room Force Incident Manager (Control Room Chief Inspector or Sergeant). The Service will be invoiced at an agreed hourly rate. An e-learning package has been developed for NFRS operational staff on the drone's capabilities and how to request it.
- 2.14 **South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service** – work is on-going to share appliance availability between respective Control rooms to ensure that the closest appliance is always mobilised to an incident, including over-border.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Sharing of NFRS estate with partner agencies such as Nottinghamshire Police will generate an annual rental income which will off-set the running costs of premises and assets therein.
- 3.2 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 into future financial planning.

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

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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 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 indicates 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/ICT security are in place and have been issued to any personnel who are co-habiting NFRS premises or using them on a regular basis.

## **9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS**

This report provides Members with an update on collaboration workstreams.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 10.1 Note the contents of this report.
- 10.2 Endorse the Service's pro-active approach to collaboration.

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

None.

John Buckley  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**