

Meeting: Combined Fire Authority

Date: 7th February 2018

Subject: Collaboration

Report by: The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

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For: Information Only

1. Purpose

To update the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) on the June 2017 paper ([Item 13 – Policing and Crime Act 2017](#)) focusing on current collaboration arrangements/initiatives.

2. Recommendations

The CFA is requested to note the report.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1. Since last year, the fire and rescue service has had a broad high-level **duty to collaborate**, where it is in the interests of their efficiency and effectiveness. LFRS has been collaborating with a number of partners for some time.
- 3.2. This report provides an update within the generic themes of *estates; support services/back office* and *operations*. Areas identified as ‘*future collaboration*’ in appendix 1 of the June 2017 Police and Crime Act 2017 ([item 13](#)) are included with the exception of Emergency First Response.

4. Report Detail

Background

- 4.1. The CFA meeting in June 2017 included a paper ([item 13](#)) on the Policing and Crime Act 2017. One aspect of the Act introduced a high-level **duty to collaborate**. The duty focussed on (but not restricted to) the Police, Fire and Rescue Services and emergency Ambulance Services. The duty is broad allowing local discretion whilst setting clear expectations.
- 4.2. The high-level **duty to collaborate** is included in one of the 3 pillars (*Efficiency and Collaboration*) of the [Fire Reform Programme](#), with blue light collaboration supported by the Emergency Services Collaboration Working group (ESCWG) established in 2014.

4.3. Efficiency and effectiveness is included in the forthcoming independent assessment by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

4.4. The generic themes for collaboration include estates; support services/back office and Operations.

Estates

4.5. LFRS and partners have a number of buildings that cost a lot to run and maintain. All of which present opportunities to collaborate, collocate and reduce future revenue costs, improving efficiency. The following gives a brief overview of our current arrangements;

Service Headquarters - EMAS

4.6. EMAS have settled into zone 7 on the 2nd (top) floor. We are currently looking into the feasibility of bringing the Rutland & North Leicestershire County Coroner's Office/Court into HQ utilising the space on the top floor (former canteen area). Estimates to convert the space are being sought to support the business case.

Enderby Police HQ Training Facility

4.7. We continue to work with the police on the feasibility of relocating our training centre from the Loughborough and Desford (Caterpillar-real fire training) site. A pre-planning application for the basic design of a new fire-training complex has been submitted to the local authority. The outcome of this planning decision will directly influence future decisions for the whole of the current Loughborough Fire station, Training and EMAS site.

Coalville Fire & Rescue Station – Police & EMAS

4.8. Following a period of consultation on future options for the police in Coalville, the construction of an extension to the fire station is now complete. The police moved in on the 8th January 2018 with additional works due to finish by the end of January 2018. East Midlands Ambulance Service's (EMAS) operational requirements are being incorporated; the lease will need signing prior to EMAS occupation.

Western Fire & Rescue Station

4.9. The Beaumont Leys police station feasibility is still progressing with core testing, structural investigations and vehicle tracking near completion, the costs to make the building suitable for our needs is being developed. Should collocation not be feasible, we will commence a re-design of Western Fire & Rescue station on its current site, the current building is too large and costly for our current requirements. Any redevelopment may present additional collaborative opportunities for partners seeking space on the outskirts of the city.

Eastern Fire & Rescue Station

- 4.10. The colocation with the Police at Keyham Lane has proven not to be viable. This is in a similar position to Western fire & rescue station in both sites have limited resale value so it is likely that we consider a re-design and better use of the space reducing future revenue costs.

Central Fire & Rescue Station

- 4.11. The relocation to Mansfield House police station has also proven not viable. We are in discussion with the city council on the use of the first floor at Central fire and rescue station are to generate income and reduce running costs.

Loughborough Fire & Rescue Station

- 4.12. This is a complex site with a number of property owners. There is the potential to collaborate on a sale/relocate basis or rebuild on the current site. This will be dependent on relocating the training centre para 3.9.

Castle Donington Fire & Rescue Station - EMAS

- 4.13. Subject to final user requirements from EMAS, and the signing of the lease agreement, we anticipate EMAS will occupy the building this year.

Support Services/Back Office

Health & Safety - Police

- 4.14. In 2015, we identified an opportunity to share health & safety staff and expertise with Leicestershire Police. The outcome resulted in a shared H&S Advisor. This collaboration has improved standards and reduce costs.

ICT Procurement – Police & City Council

- 4.15. In 2017, we reported that Leicestershire Police undertook a strategic procurement review. The review has led to a collaborative procurement process with Leicester City Council ensuring future compliance, delivering Value for Money (VFM).

Workshops/Engineering - Police

- 4.16. LFRS workshops provide a large goods vehicle servicing and repair facility for Leicestershire Police's vans and lorries generating a small income. There is an opportunity to increase this capability and broaden the provision to generate a greater income, this opportunity will be explored in 2018/19

Regional Implementation Team – Fire/Fire in East Midlands Region

- 4.17. A team consisting of one representative from each of the 5 fire and rescue services within the East Midlands Region, has been established to review compliance with National Operational Guidance (NOG). This team will provide a regional solution for all creating a single set of documents to allow us to work more effectively together in the future (Intra-operability) and reduce duplication

and cost.

Operations

Community Safety – Prevention (reducing demand)

- 4.18. We have embedded staff within a multi-disciplinary mental health team in Leicester. The aim of the team is to reduce the risk to vulnerable adults within the community. The team is hosted by Leicestershire Police and includes police, health/social care and fire and rescue staff.
- 4.19. LFRS Operational Intelligence unit includes a seconded police officer who provides an essential investigation capability and links to the police and justice system supporting arson reduction. This enables LFRS and Leicestershire police to deliver good practice of a multi-agency approach.
- 4.20. In Blaby district we provide a community safety educator working within the Light Bulb initiative. A collaboration between partners designed to help older and vulnerable people stay safe and well in their home for as long as possible.
- 4.21. We have a community safety educator embedded within Warning Zone assisting in the delivery of life-saving/skills messages to children (year 6 – aged 10/11) and young people across LLR.
- 4.22. We are working with Charnwood DC whereby the local authority undertake their own 'home safe and well' assessment on tenancy changes. This includes the fitting of smoke alarms. We are seeking to extend this model across Leicestershire.

Community Safety – Protection (reducing demand)

- 4.23. In Charnwood we are supporting the 'Better Business For all' training our enforcement partners in fire protection, in accordance with the principles of the Regulators Code. This will reduce regulatory burdens on business.

Future

- 4.24. We continue to explore collaborative opportunities with Leicestershire Police. This includes:
 - ✓ A joint/shared events and operational planning team;
 - ✓ Professional standards, HMICFRS and statutory compliance team;
 - ✓ Joint Police Community Support Officer/community firefighter;
 - ✓ Learning & Development – leadership and JESIP
 - ✓ Joint regulation hub.
- 4.25. The Government have announced a [new national body](#) that is being set up to identify risks and responses to large-scale product recalls and repairs. This will develop our relationship with Trading Standards teams helping to keep people safe in their homes.

5. Report Implications / Impact

5.1. *Legal (including crime and disorder)*

- a) This report provides members an update on the new high-level duty to collaborate within the Police and Crime Act 2017.
- b) Relevant legislation is considered within this report.

5.2. *Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)*

None.

5.3. *Risk (including corporate and operational, health and safety and any impact on the continuity of service delivery)*

All collaborative opportunities are based upon a rational of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery or support, which includes resilience and business continuity.

5.4. *Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)*

All relevant collaborative opportunities include an impact assessment if needed.

5.5. *Environmental*

None.

5.6. *Impact upon Our Plan Objectives*

Collaboration opportunities are subject to feasibility and business case analysis that includes the identification of impacts on relevant objectives. The main purpose being to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery or support.

6. Background Papers

- a) [Police and Crime Act 2017](#)
- b) [Item 13, 21st June 2017 CFA Meeting - Police and Crime Act 2017](#)

7. Appendices

None.