

**Meeting: Combined Fire Authority****Date: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015****Subject: Fire Control Collaboration****Report by: Chief Fire and Rescue Officer****Author: Richard Chandler****For: Decision**

## **1. Purpose**

This report updates the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) on the latest developments regarding the proposed Fire Control Collaboration with Nottinghamshire and the City of Nottingham Fire Authority (Nottinghamshire).

## **2. Recommendations**

The CFA is asked to:

- a) Note the inability to progress the proposed Fire Control Collaboration project with Nottinghamshire.
- b) Dissolve the Member led Working Group and governance structure to oversee the implementation and long term delivery of the Fire Control function.

## **3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1. As part of the report to the CFA in February 2014, it was agreed to consider the opportunity for greater collaboration between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Fire Authority (Derbyshire). Following that meeting the then Chief Fire and Rescue Officer Dave Webb gave confirmation that the CFA wished to engage in considering a shared Control function.
- 3.2. After the establishment of a Member led joint working group and subsequent meetings with Nottinghamshire, the CFA, at its meeting in December 2014, agreed to the principle of combining control functions and the formation of an appropriate governance structure.

## **4. Report Detail**

- 4.1. The Tri-Service (the CFA, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire) Fire Control system that is now in use links all three Control Rooms seamlessly and enables each one to mobilise the assets of the other two.
- 4.2. The CFA recognised that this technology would enable greater collaboration and

the ability to generate additional savings through a combination of control functions.

- 4.3. At a meeting held in May 2015, attended by the respective Chairs and Chief Fire and Rescue Officers, concerns were raised that there may be issues that could potentially have an impact on the collaboration project progressing. At that time it was agreed to halt the implementation work and revisit the issue in September 2015.
- 4.4. In early September the Chief Fire and Rescue Officers of both authorities engaged in a discussion and unfortunately this has led to a position that the authorities are unable to move forward with a combined control function at this time.
- 4.5. The inability to move forward with the collaboration does not compromise the operational effectiveness of the organisation. However, it does remove the opportunity to generate the £400,000 savings this project had the potential to deliver. This impact has been considered and is included in future budget deficit work-streams.
- 4.6. A similar report is being presented to Members at Nottinghamshire and coordinated briefings will be undertaken with employees and their representatives.

## **5. Report Implications / Impact**

### **5.1. *Legal (including crime and disorder)***

There are no legal implications arising from this report

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

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report however, the inability to create savings from this project will need to be factored into ongoing work-streams regarding the future financial deficit.

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

The inability to generate savings from the collaboration project means that other work will need to move forward to address the budget deficit in a timely manner. The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer is aware of this, and other reports elsewhere on the agenda have the potential to address the issue.

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

- a) There are no direct implications arising from this report. However, the impact of uncertainty on staff has been recognised and this will be factored in to employee briefings.
- b) An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken as this report does not

propose any changes to service policy.

5.5. ***Environmental***

None identified.

5.6. ***Impact upon Our Plan Objectives***

None

6. **Background Papers**

None

7. **Appendices**

None