

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 6

MEETING: 14th SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: CO-LOCATION OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE STAFF AT TYNE AND WEAR FIRE STATIONS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the project for the basing of staff, and provision of neighbourhood policing services by Northumbria Police, at a number of Tyne and Wear fire stations.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Building on the relationships we already have in place for co-location on our sites with the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) and North of Tyne Mountain Rescue Team, in February 2015 TWFA agreed the basis for co location of neighbourhood policing teams from Northumbria Police (NP) on five of our stations:
- Birtley
 - Chopwell
 - Farringdon
 - Hebburn
 - Sunderland Central
- 2.2 This work has been supported by a successful bid to the Fire Transformation Fund which will cover all capital costs associated with the co-location project.
- 2.3 As set out in the Transformation Fund bid, this project has a number of benefits to the community including closer working relationships to address anti social behaviour; social value savings based on a reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents and deliberate fires; direct efficiency savings to NP; and additional income to TWFA.

- 2.4 Following detailed work through a cross organisation group with full involvement from operational staff from both parties, we are on target for the co locations to go live as follows:

Sunderland Central: work is complete on building alterations and Police colleagues are scheduled to move into the station week commencing 21st September 2015

Hebburn: building alterations are in progress for a planned “go live” date of week commencing 26th October 2015

Chopwell: minor works are in progress for a planned “go live” date of week commencing 9th November

Farringdon and Birtley: building alterations are in progress for a planned “go live” date of week commencing 16th November.

- 2.5 Joint communications are being planned for October.

3 HR IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 This paper has no impact on the terms and conditions of TWFRS staff. However, it represents a new way of working for staff who have not shared a station with colleagues from a partner organisation.

- 3.2 As part of the planning of this project, Service Delivery staff have been engaged in discussion about the practical daily implications of working alongside Police colleagues. Active work has begun between operational teams from both parties to plan how the co-location will be managed and to address any issues and concerns.

4 LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This project will provide an opportunity for staff from both partners to gain a greater detailed understanding of each other’s priorities and work practices.

5 ICT IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As part of the co-location, Police computer systems will be in place at the named sites. This has been managed through collaboration between both parties’ ICT teams. The transformation funding will cover the costs of ICT equipment related to this project.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 All costs associated with this project are met through a successful bid to the Government's Fire Transformation Fund.

7 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The risks associated with this project were identified at the time of submitting the funding bid, and actions were put in place to mitigate these risks. The key risks include:
- Inability to agree specification for NP requirements in the new sites
 - Risk that building works are not completed to time or standard
 - Lack of capacity on the part of either partner to bring the project to fruition
 - Cultural barriers and different working practices could hamper progress

8 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This report has no implications in terms of equality and fairness.

9 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This report has no direct Health and Safety implications.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) Members are recommended to note the progress made in terms of co location of Northumbria Police neighbourhood policing staff on a number of stations.

