

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 6

MEETING: 16 JULY 2018

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON COLLABORATION

JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE (THE CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY), THE STRATEGIC FINANCE OFFICER AND THE PERSONNEL ADVISOR TO THE AUTHORITY

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on progress of collaborative activities between Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services (TWFRS) and partner organisations including Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS), County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS), the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (OPCC), Northumbria Police (NP) and more recently, the North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS).

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 TWFRS, NFRS, CDDFRS, OPCC, NP and NEAS have a successful track record of collaborating, which has resulted in co-location at a number of sites and improved operational and preventative activities.
- 2.2 The introduction of the Policing and Crime Act 2017; further enhanced the democratic accountability of fire and rescue services and police forces to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency services through closer collaboration.

3 GOVERNANCE

- 3.1 In ensuring a shared vision for collaboration, all partners have supported a statement of intent, in keeping with the principles set out in the statement of intent provided to Members in July 2017 [Min 20/2017 refers]. Plans are in place to update the signatories to formalise the inclusion of NEAS, together with a further Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) collaboration statement.
- 3.2 The principles of collaboration for all partners is to seek to maximise value for money; e.g. reducing costs through joint procurement, removal of duplication and to optimise utilisation of resources, including co-location; with any cross partner recharge being on a full cost recovery basis only and is in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Best Value principles. Whilst nothing in the statement of intent is binding upon each party, nor does it preclude the parties from collaborating with other agencies, the spirit in which the principles are approached is key to successful collaboration.

- 3.3 Further to the above, partners seek to optimise multi-agency response and resilience, through enhanced working relationships, in line with the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP).
- 3.4 In support of the statements of intent, formalised governance arrangements have been established for TWFRS, NFRS, OPCC, NP and NEAS through the formation of a Joint Collaboration Strategy Group and Joint Collaboration Delivery Group, to provide a mechanism to drive forward efficient decision making and implementation whilst ensuring all parties are properly represented. A detailed work plan sets out activity across nine key areas of business.
- 3.5 FRS collaboration activities with CDDFRS and NFRS continue to evolve, with strategic oversight through respective Principal Officers and delivery being managed through both existing regional forums, and where appropriate, co-ordinated through the Joint Collaboration Delivery Group work streams.
- 3.6 All partners set out to develop opportunities for collaboration, paying particular attention to the following aims:
- Deliver better value for money - producing quantifiable efficiencies;
 - Provide improved outcomes - maintaining or improving the services to local people and communities;
 - Reduce demand - contributing towards strategic objectives of decreasing risk in communities by reducing demand on services.

4 PROGRESS UPDATE

Further to the report tabled to Members in July 2017 [Min 20/2017 refers], the following provides examples of the collaborative activities that have taken place during the past 12 months, including the completion of 12 cases studies which have been submitted to the Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group (ESCWG) to input onto their national database.

4.1 Sharing of Knowledge and Information

The Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition took place in Gateshead on 13-14 March 2018, and provided an opportunity to promote shared learning and knowledge, offering the opportunity to demonstrate collaborative working to a wider audience.

Representatives from the TWFRS Trauma Support Team (TST) along with Commissioner Dany Cotton, London Fire Brigade and Chief Fire Officer Ian Hayton, Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service conducted a keynote session titled 'Grenfell Mental Health and Wellbeing in the Fire Sector'. The session outlined the evolution of the TST's approach, gave an insight into shared experiences and outlined the processes that have been adopted.

In addition, representatives from TWFRS and NP participated in a collaborative workshop titled 'working together – it's easy, isn't it?' to discuss their

experiences and lessons learned from the procurement of a joint HR and business intelligence system.

4.2 Service Delivery, including; Prevention, Response and Demand Reduction

- Ongoing community safety delivery at Safetyworks, in partnership with OPCC and NP, which received particular praise by Sir Tom Winsor, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, in the State of Policing 2017 report.
- Development of Safe and Well visits in conjunction with local authority public health functions to further expand the benefits of Home Safety Check.
- NP, NFRS and TWFRS have agreed to collaborate on the UKAS ISO Fire Investigation accreditation. The first draft of the 'Statutory Collaboration Agreement' has been completed and under review by legal representatives.
- MOU in development between NP and TWFRS to include support with welfare vehicle, drone and Command Support vehicle. Initial discussions have taken place to identify whether there is scope for Emergency Services to share bunkered fuel and access to out of hour's workshops. This proposal is in its infancy and requires further work.
- An antisocial behaviour (ASB) workshop organised by TWFRS, NP and NFRS took place 13 March 2018, with 70 stakeholders in attendance, including representatives from the OPCC, the five local authorities of Tyne and Wear and Northumberland County Council. Hot spot mapping and multi-agency initiatives were discussed to identify joint solutions to reduce and mitigate the effects of ASB.
- TWFRS, OPCC, NP and NFRS working together to further enhance joint safeguarding messages during home safety visits and other community engagement interventions.

4.3 Estate and Asset Integration

- A feasibility study has commenced for the proposed site for the relocation of Hebburn Fire Station, utilising the One Public Estate (OPE) grant funding to conduct this study. Co-location options with NP, NEAS, South Tyneside Council and other partners, including those in the health and education sector are being explored. TWFRS have made contact with NEAS' Environmental and Sustainability Manager with a view to sharing knowledge and expertise regarding carbon neutral / environmental options for the new build.
- The Great North Air Ambulance (GNAAS) ground response unit has co-located to Washington Community Fire Station; the site location offers direct access to the North East's principal airports and hospitals.
- Northumbria Blood Bikes have co-located to West Denton Community Fire Station becoming the latest emergency and community service to operate from the west of Newcastle facility along with NEAS and the North of Tyne Mountain Rescue team.
- The Princes Trust have co-located to Newcastle Central Community Fire Station, using this site to store their trailers.

- NEAS are considering options to relocate their Advanced Paramedic Practitioners to TWFRS sites; this proposal is currently in development.

4.4 **Service Support Functions**

- TWFRS joined with other public sector organisations to support OPCC in the partnership panels for the recent Chief and Deputy Chief Constable appointments.
- TWFRS in conjunction with CDDFRS conducted a joint Assistant Chief Fire Officer recruitment process, with both Services' appointment candidates.
- TWFRS are collaborating on a joint firefighter recruitment campaign with CDDFRS and NFRS. TWFRS are seeking to recruit 20 wholetime firefighters to start in autumn 2018. Recruitment registration commences 9 July 2018.
- NP and TWFRS are in the process of implementing the new HR and business intelligence system, following Members approval 19 June 2017 [Min 13/2017 refers] for the joint procurement of this system.
- TWFRS, NP, CDDFRS and NFRS are collaborating within the remit of Health and Safety by sharing policies and procedures. Further collaboration of training, electronic systems, risk assessments and audits are currently being explored.
- TWFRS welfare support provision has been provided to CDDFRS with reciprocal arrangements in place for CDDFRS' Fitness and Wellbeing Advisor to conduct work with TWFRS.
- Further to the above, TWFRS Trauma Support Team has provided support to London Fire Brigade following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower.

4.5 **Training and Development**

- TWFRS has provided training facilities for the NP Marine Unit, conducted confined space training for NP Officers and are in the process of arranging training with Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) teams.
- TWFRS facilitated an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) awareness session with NP and local authority representatives.
- In collaboration with NP, TWFRS' Brigade Training Centre was used by the West Yorkshire Counter Terrorist Special Firearms Officers (CTSFO) and Dutch Marines to conduct operational training.
- TWFRS have provided a training course for national resilience (hot cutting and confined space).
- TWFRS, NP, NFRS, CDDFRS and NEAS are looking to collaborate on response driver training. Basic training delivery models are being reviewed to identify common themes and opportunities.
- In collaboration with CDDFRS, Principal Officers from TWFRS attended the North East Local Resilience Forum (LRF) led regional delivery of the Multi Agency Gold Incident Command (MAGIC) course.
- Coercive control training and domestic violence training have been offered to TWFRS, NEAS, NFRS and NP by the OPCC and this item is currently being progressed.

4.6 **Public Engagement and Accountability**

- Once again TWFRS, OPCC, NP and NEAS will collaborate in engaging across a range of events for the eleventh annual Northern Pride celebration.
- To aid firefighter recruitment TWFRS, NFRS and CDDFRS communications teams are working together on a media campaign.
- NP, NEAS, NFRS and TWFRS have shared their events calendars to, seek new opportunities to publicise joint ventures, improve the sharing of press releases and other resources as appropriate.
- The Darker Nights' campaign took place in autumn 2017 in collaboration with NP and included fire safety and prevention messages for Diwali, Halloween and Bonfire. The campaign was evaluated and the lessons learned fed into the Deliberate Fires Task and Finish Group. This campaign allowed TWFRS to raise the issue of attacks on firefighters and with NP involved, highlighted the potential consequences for offenders.

4.7 **Threat, Harm and Risk**

- Joint resilience exercises; Border Reiver (October 17); Skynet (February 18), Frazer (April 18) and Stephenson (June 18) and participation in the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) exercises.

4.8 **Finance including funding opportunities and procurement**

- NP Funding Officer is to deliver training to TWFRS Senior Leadership Team (SLT) on grant funding and bidding opportunities.
- In conjunction with the OPCC Chief of Staff, NP, TWFRS, NFRS and NEAS are to establish a funding opportunities working group.
- TWFRS, OPCC, NP, NFRS and NEAS, are working with Professor Michael Norton from Cardioproof to install 24/7 access community public access defibrillators (CPADs) on the outside of partners buildings. The Services are working together to identify gaps in provision by geography and locate CPADs at police and fire stations across the region.

5 **CONCLUSION**

5.1 Since the previous report significant areas for collaboration have been explored with several areas of clear and effective progress.

5.2 Decisions made and collaborative activity undertaken has already identified improved:

- Outcomes for people and communities
- Inter-operability
- Staff welfare
- Value for money.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The financial implications in respect of this report are fully reflected within the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy. Analysis of value for money will be subject to future reports to Members.
- 6.2 The wider estimated benefit of the greater collaborative working and initiatives identified within this report has helped to achieve a total one-off saving from the disposal of assets in excess of £1.2m and on-going revenue savings in excess of £1.5m.

7 HR IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The collaborative approach has enabled the joint procurement of a new HR and business intelligence system, which has further highlighted areas of good practice and opportunities for further collaboration during implementation.

8 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The principles of collaborative working support the Authority's drive to promote equality, diversity and inclusion.

9 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Authority is recommended to:
- a) Note progress on collaboration
 - b) Support the continuation of collaboration between TWFRS, CDDFRS, NFRS, OPCC, NP and NEAS.
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