

MEETING: 17 JULY 2017

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN TYNE & WEAR FIRE
AND RESCUE SERVICE, NORTHUMBERLAND FIRE AND RESCUE
SERVICE AND NORTHUMBRIA POLICE**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE (THE CLERK
TO THE AUTHORITY) THE STRATEGIC FINANCE MANAGER 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 collaboration between Tyne & Wear and Northumberland Fire & Rescue Services and Northumbria Police.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service (TWFRS), Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service (NFRS) and Northumbria Police (NP) 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 To further develop collaborative opportunities between the three partners, a Statement of Intent (Appendix A) was signed on 27th June 2016 by the Fire Authority Chairs, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Chief Fire Officers and the Chief Constable, to promote 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.
- 2.3 To provide the appropriate scrutiny, oversight and delivery of projects; a Joint Strategy Board and Joint Delivery Group was established. Appendix B sets out the structure and activity flow.
- 2.4 Since the formalisation of the collaborative intent, the Policing and Crime Act 2017 ("the Act") received Royal Assent on 31 January 2017. The Act aims to enhance the democratic accountability of fire and rescue services, and police forces, and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency services through closer collaboration.

- 2.5 Following the first twelve months of formalised collaboration and the assent of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, Members are invited to receive the progress update, as set out below.

3 **PROGRESS UPDATE**

In developing collaborative opportunities, the Joint Strategy Board set out nine key areas of business to explore. The following provides example of collaboration in progress and undertaken over the past twelve months;

3.1 **Sharing of knowledge and information**

Significant information and knowledge transfer is embedded throughout all work streams. Delivered successes in this area include a number of awareness sessions for Police staff in new technology and capabilities of TWFRS, which has proven beneficial in a range of operational activities. Appendix C provides an illustrative case study.

In further seeking to enhance collaborative opportunities, the Joint Strategy Board endorsed initial discussions with North East Ambulance Service (NEAS). Following an initial meeting, NEAS has confirmed interest in exploring collaborative opportunities.

3.2 **Service Delivery, including; Prevention, Response and demand reduction;**

In addition to the operational benefits highlighted in appendix C, further activity includes:

- Establishment of search and rescue group through the Northumbria LRF and ESLG;
- Joint resilience exercises; Custodian (May 17); Black Kite (June 17); Border Reiver (October 17);
- Support for Communications training for Senior police Staff;
- MOU in development between NP and TWFRS to include support with welfare vehicle, drone and Command Support vehicle;
- Operation Merlin and joint bonfires campaigns successful being reviewed to informing a joint strategic approach;
- Development of Safe and Well visits to further expand the benefits of Home Safety Check.

3.3 **Estate and Asset Integration;**

In addition to the co-location of Police Staff at 4 existing Community Fire Stations, the following activity is being undertaken;

- TWFRS estates staff assessing potential capacity to support NP strategic requirements and TWFRS;
- Plans and costings for accommodating Motor Patrol, Operation Dragoon and Dog Section (South) at TWFRS HQ have been provided to NP;
- Successful One Public Estate (OPE) bid for feasibility study for new Hebburn safety hub; Options being explored with a range of partners including NP, South Tyneside Council, Health partners. Further considerations include extending to education, charity and business sector;
- Exploration of NP to share TWFRS uniform store.

3.4 **Control Room**

Key areas of distinction for a mobilisation control centre are technical systems, together with site location and buildings. Consideration of each element is set out below:

Systems:

- NP imminently requiring a replacement mobilisation system;
- TWFRS & NFRS control contract is 4 years into a 10 year contract, with reportable savings profiles to Home Office following previous investment by DCLG;
- Significant work through ESMCP being undertaken by both NP and TWFRS.
- Current alignment and financial considerations makes imminent combined Police/Fire Systems unviable;
- Consideration for a next generation collaborative system will be included in future work plans.

Building & Locations:

- Options for location for a police control room on TWFRS HQ site to link to TWFRS control is being explored, with recognition to; opportunities to evolve ways of working, together with good transport links, site security and infrastructure.
- Co-location would facilitate interoperability and intelligence sharing between the FRS and Police Control rooms and pave the way for future exploration of a joint mobilising system.
- Further opportunities would include facilities for LRF Strategic Co-ordinating Centre, together with Tactical Co-ordinating Centres.

3.5 **Service Support functions**

- NP and TWFRS have completed a joint procurement exercise for a replacement HR and business intelligence system; with Members approval on 19th June 2017 [Min no. 13/2017 refers]
- Sharing of H&S policies and procedures are being explored to identify opportunities for collaboration.

3.6 Training and Development

- A review of training to explore opportunities for a strategic approach has been identified. The first element is being undertaken in collaboration with the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) for regional delivery of Multi Agency Gold Incident Command (MAGIC).
- Review of future training schemes will be considered at a future juncture.

3.7 Threat, harm and risk assessment

A range of examples have been undertaken within the past twelve months, including;

- Police Firearms Officers attending COBRA Training Session;
- Police presenting at, and attending, the North East Command Conference;
- Police negotiators receiving updates on bridge/cliff rescues from TWFRS;
- Police delivering MTFA courses to TWFRS Officers;
- NILO training and forensic dog handler support.

3.8 Public engagement and accountability

- NP and TWFRS Communications Departments are undertaking a review of joint working to seek new opportunities, including publicity of prevention and operational activities and initiatives.
- Improvements in sharing press releases and resources where appropriate.

3.9 Finance including funding opportunities and procurement.

- Successful One Public Estate (OPE) bid for Hebburn, with consideration of further OPE bids for feasibility of joint Mobilising Control facilities.
- Linking of NP and TWFRS Funding Officer to consider joint bid opportunities.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 Since the formation of the Joint Strategy Board and joint Delivery group, significant areas for collaboration have been explored with several areas of clear and effective progress.

4.2 Decisions made and collaborative activity undertaken has already identified improved;

- Outcomes for people and communities;
- Inter-operability
- Improved staff welfare.
- Value for money.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial implications in respect of this report are reflected within the Authority's MTFS. Analysis of value for money will be subject to future reports to Members.

6 HR IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 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.

7 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

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

8 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

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

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are recommended to:
- (a) Note the progress on collaboration
 - (b) Support the continuation of collaboration between NP, TWFRS and NFRS.



VERA BAIRD QC
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

**Tyne and Wear Fire
and Rescue Authority**
Creating the Safest Community

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Northumbria Police and Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service / Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service

Draft Statement of Intent: Enhanced Collaboration

The Police Force and Fire and Rescue Services are facing similar challenges.

We all provide vital services and share the aim of protecting the public. We all face the continuing pressures presented by austerity, the subsequent need to spend less but achieve more and, crucially, to manage down demand on our services. The next few years are likely to see us needing to find further savings, but still to provide high quality services to the public, as they have a right to expect.

Unlike some areas of the country, the three services share coterminous boundaries, meaning that both the geographical area they cover and the communities they protect are the same. In addition, they are operating as part of already excellent partnership working within both local authority areas. So the prevailing conditions are strong for ever-closer working.

Working in partnership – and more formal collaboration – can bring great benefits:

- Reduced costs through removal of duplication;
- Better outcomes for the citizens who use our services;
- Increased resilience.

Therefore, we intend to enhance our collaboration in order to help us to meet the challenges of the future. This statement is a non-binding declaration of our current intentions in relation to such collaboration.

We will consider the potential for collaborative activity in all our areas of spend, paying particular attention to the following aims:

- (1) BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY** – The collaborative produces quantifiable efficiencies, either on implementation or in the longer term.
- (2) IMPROVED OUTCOMES** – The collaboration maintains or improves the service we provide to local people and local communities.

(3) REDUCED DEMAND – The collaboration should contribute towards our longer term strategic objective of decreasing risk in communities and reducing demand on services.

Collaborative partnerships will be explored in all areas of responsibilities of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services, where there is potential for the above aims to be achieved.

A work programme will be drawn up and agreed to identify priority areas for collaboration. Area to explore will include, but are not limited to:

- Sharing of knowledge and information
- Service Delivery – including:
 - Prevention and demand reduction
 - Response
- Estate and Asset integration
- Control Room
- Service support functions
- Training and Development
- Threat, harm and risk assessment
- Public engagement and accountability
- Finance e.g. joint bids, pooled budgets and shared contracts and procurement.

Northumbria Police and Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service / Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service acknowledge that there may be times when the three organisations make different levels of savings in order to gain the overall advantages of collaboration.

Governance arrangements will be established which provide a mechanism to drive forward efficient decision making and implementation whilst ensuring all parties are properly represented.

Northumbria Police and Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service / Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service acknowledge the Government's proposals to encourage greater collaboration between the emergency services. All organisations believe stronger collaboration rather than integration will deliver improved outcomes for the communities of Northumbria area.

Nothing in this statement of intent is binding upon the parties nor precludes the parties from collaborating with other agencies.

Northumbria Police and Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service / Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service will review progress under this agreement after six months.

March 2016

Signatories

Vera Baird
Police and Crime Commissioner

Tom Wright
Chair, Tyne & Wear
Fire and Rescue Authority

Steve Ashman
Chief Constable

Dave Ledger
Chair, Northumberland
Fire and Rescue Authority

Alex Bennett
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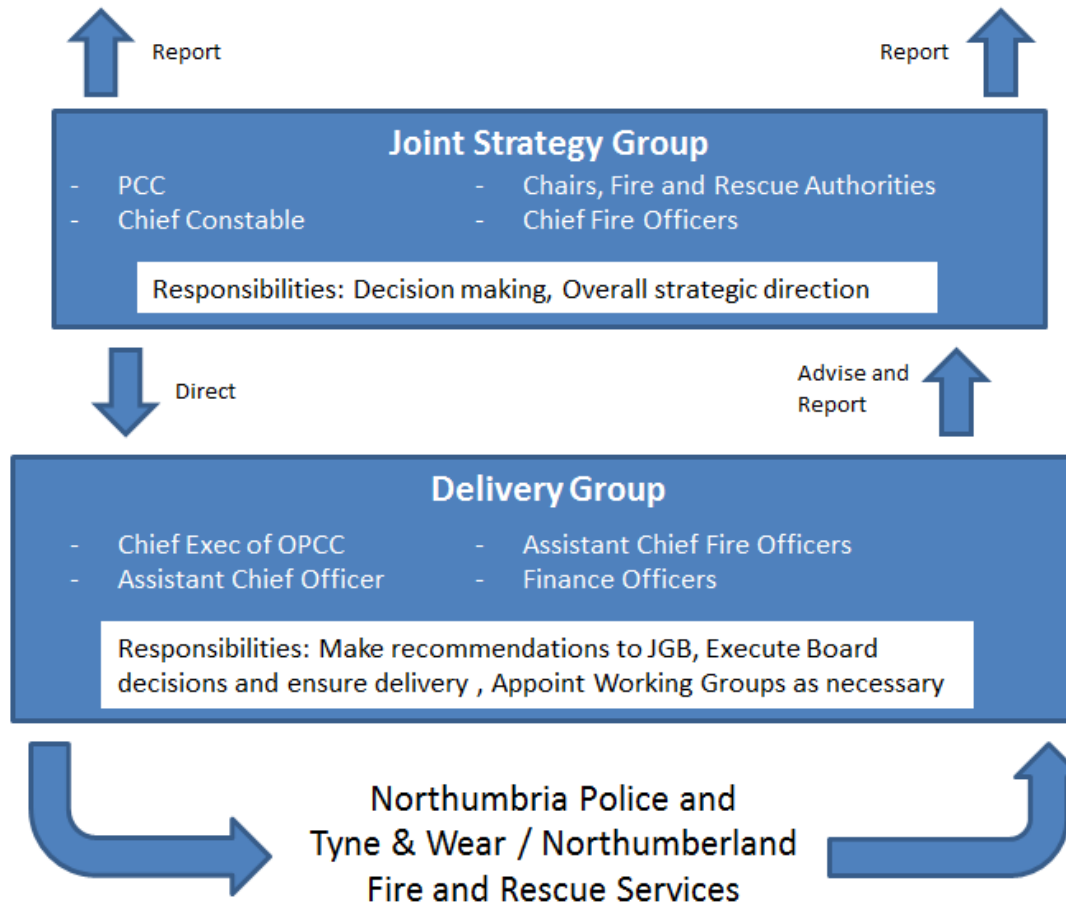
Tom Capeling
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Tyne & Wear FRS

Summary of Police / Fire Collaboration Governance Arrangements

DRAFT

Police and Crime Panel

Fire and Rescue Authorities





Northumbria Police and Tyne and Wear Fire & Rescue Service / Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service

Case Study

Date: June 2017

Title: Increasing operational capabilities through collaboration

Summary

Following the decision by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) to invest in new technology as part of their Integrated Risk Management Plan, it was recognised there was an opportunity to increase the awareness of Northumbria Police (NP) of this new technology and the wider capabilities and skills of TWFRS that could assist NP in carrying out their roles within the community.

Contact was made between the two services to identify opportunities for collaboration with regard to resource capabilities.

TWFRS and NP now have a greater understanding of the capabilities of the others resources, capabilities and skills. This allows a safer and swifter conclusion of incidents improving the outcomes for the community and ensures resources are available for redeployment more promptly.

Action taken

TWFRS delivered a number of awareness sessions to NP showcasing the equipment and capabilities of TWFRS, including the drone, command and control unit, detection identification and monitoring (DIM) vehicle, welfare vehicle, thermal hand held scanners, urban search and rescue team, swift water rescue team (SRT) and aerial appliances.

Awareness sessions were delivered to tactical firearms teams, silver commanders, POLSA teams, operational staff and to the Police Negotiator Conference held at the Jury's Inn Gateshead resulting in over 200 NP staff being briefed on TWFRS capabilities.

The aim was for increased awareness to allow NP staff to consider TWFRS resources, capabilities and skills to bring incidents to a prompt, safe and effective conclusion.

Result/ Benefits

Utilisation of TWFRS DIM Vehicle to assist NP in the identification of unknown suspicious substances. A recent example is the recent NP operation when a number of properties were searched to identify the use of Fentanyl. Fentanyl is a potent, synthetic opioid pain medication added to heroin to make it more effective and has been responsible for emergency responders deaths abroad. By using the DIM vehicle, unknown substances that were located during the search were able to be identified safely and promptly.

TWFRSs drone has been able to assist NP at incidents including an RTC, and on two separate occasions to assist in the search for missing persons. In October 2016, NP were searching for a missing person. Due to the increased knowledge and awareness NP requested the TWFRS swift water rescue team (SRT) and the drone. Both capabilities were provided alongside NP utilising a search dog and marine unit allowing a thorough and prompt search to take place. This scenario demonstrates that by collaborating, the combined resources, capabilities and skills can be utilised to provide a more efficient and effective resolution of incidents.

The welfare vehicle has been provided to NP on several occasions to improve welfare during protracted incidents. These include use by the firearms teams during the international football game at the Stadium of Light and during extended on site investigations following the discovery of a body in a Sunderland Cemetery.

Next Steps

Continue to deliver awareness sessions between services to embed this operational collaboration. Consider opportunities where new technology can be jointly specified and/or procured to ensure maximum benefit to the community from limited financial resources.

OFFICIAL