

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 10

MEETING: 13 JUNE 2016

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

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE (CLERK 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) and Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service (NFRS) have a successful track record of collaborating with Northumbria Police (NP) which has resulted in co-location at a number of sites and improved operational and preventative collaboration.
- 2.2 Fire Authority Chairs were supportive of the Service pursuing further collaborative opportunities with Northumbria Police to mitigate funding reductions and improve service delivery.
- 2.3 Members will also be aware of the recent government consultation document which proposed introducing legislation that placed a statutory duty on the emergency services to collaborate as a means of seeking efficiencies and/or improving community safety. The Chancellor confirmed the government's intention to pursue the introduction of this statutory duty during his speech on the Comprehensive Spending Review on 27 November 2015.

3 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service, NFRS and NP recognise the benefits that collaboration has brought all organisations and are keen to explore other potential areas with the aims of:
- Delivering better value for money
 - Providing improved outcomes that maintain or improve the services provided;
 - Reducing demand on services and decreasing the risks within the local communities.

- 3.2 To acknowledge the importance of collaborative working and to ensure that the appropriate resources are allocated to progress opportunities, a formal non-binding Statement of Intent (Appendix A) has been produced which details the intention of the organisations to work together.
- 3.3 To ensure the correct level of resource is allocated to explore collaboration opportunities and implement them where appropriate, it is intended that a work programme will be established to identify key projects for collaboration which will include areas such as:
- Sharing of knowledge and information;
 - Service Delivery – including:
 - Prevention and demand reduction;
 - Response;
 - Estate and Asset integration;
 - Control Room;
 - “Back Office” 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.
- 3.4 To provide the correct level of scrutiny and oversight on projects it is intended to establish a governance framework (Appendix B) which will include a Joint Strategy Board (JSB) consisting of the Chairs of the Fire Authorities, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), the Chief Fire Officers and the Chief Constable. This board will have responsibility for:
- Setting the overall strategic direction; and
 - Decision making in relation to implementation of collaboration projects.
- 3.5 A Delivery Group has been established, consisting of Senior Officers from TWFRS, NFRS and NP. This group will be responsible for:
- Commissioning collaboration projects;
 - Appointing working groups as necessary to carry out the project work; and
 - Making recommendations to the JSB on the viability of the projects.

4 **NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 The statement of intent is to be signed by the Fire Authority Chairs, the Chief Fire Officers, the PCC and the Chief Constable. The JSB will meet to prioritise the areas for collaboration and the Delivery Group will commence work on the specific business cases.
- 4.2 Decisions made by the Joint Strategy Board will be reported back to the Authority; either for information or approval dependant on the nature of the collaboration.

5 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 Members are recommended to:
 - (a) Note the progress with collaboration and the statement of intent with Northumbria Police:
 - (b) Approve the collaboration governance framework.



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
Chief Fire Officer
Northumberland FRS

Tom Capeling
Chief Fire Officer
Tyne & Wear FRS

Summary of Police / Fire Collaboration Governance Arrangements

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