

## Police and Crime Panel

28<sup>th</sup> October 2016



## Update on Enhancing Collaboration between Durham Constabulary and Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Report of Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

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### Purpose of report

1. To update the Police and Crime Panel on work to enhance collaboration between the Police and Fire and Rescue Services.

### Background

2. Strong partnership working has existed for many years between the police and fire and rescue services. Given continuing budget pressures, and a desire to ensure that they are providing the best possible service to the public, the two services are now looking to enhance the way they collaborate.
3. On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015 they announced they had signed a Statement of Intent to collaborate. This sets out that they will consider the potential to collaborate across all areas of spending, with particular attention to the following aims:
  - Better value for money
  - Improved outcomes
  - Reduced demand.
4. The PCVC and the Chair / Vice-Chair of the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) have established appropriate governance arrangements to enable effective decision-making, headed by a Joint Strategy Group.

### Current Position

5. On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015 the Joint Strategy Group held its first meeting and agreed its top four priorities, and this was reported to the Police and Crime Panel at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Progress on these is set out below:

### Estates

- The two organisations' estates teams have worked together to map their current assets across County Durham and Darlington;
- Plans are well-advanced for co-location with the ambulance service and mountain rescue at the new quad station at Barnard Castle. The extension to the fire station at Durham to accommodate some of the mountain rescue resources, which is part of the overall project, was formally opened on Saturday 15 October;
- Durham Constabulary will close the section office at Pelton Fell and co-locate at High Handenhold Fire Station nearby;
- A joint estates strategy to 2020 has been drafted and agreed in principle by the Joint Strategy Group. This sets out the high level direction of travel and does not commit to individual estates projects. This will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, and in particular there are some key strategic decisions which the Police need to make around the future of its custody suites which will need to be taken into account.

#### Control Room

- We continue to test the feasibility of closer collaboration in this area, though no decisions have been reached.

#### Training and Development

- Opportunities for shared training and development continue to be sought;
- A proposal to co-locate driver training at Spennymoor Fire Station has proved to be prohibitively expensive and therefore will not be going ahead.

#### Back Office transactional services

- IT – Agreement has been reached to develop detailed proposals for disaster recovery arrangements using each other's HQs;
- Financial services – we explored whether financial services for the Fire and Rescue Service could be added to the Police's contract, however the cost was quoted at £100,000 and was therefore deemed not viable.

#### Other

- We are continuing to explore the potential for the Community Safety Responders model, which has been successful in Weardale, to be extended and adapted across other localities. We have agreed to mainstream the service from April 2017, after the Police Innovation Fund money has expired;
- Both organisations freely share information to support preparation for forthcoming inspection regimes.

6. In addition to these areas, the organisations are looking to deepen their relationship via general sharing of expertise, knowledge, advice and information.

### **Recommendation**

7. Members of the Police and Crime Panel are asked to:
  - Note the progress made and provide any comments and / or questions for the PCC.

**Alan Reiss**  
Chief of Staff (OPCVC)

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## Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

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**Finance:** The collaboration programme is expected to improve value for money across both services, though no specific monetary value or target has been calculated.

**Staffing:** The collaboration programme could lead to changes in staffing levels and responsibilities.

**Equality and Diversity:** No specific implications.

**Accommodation:** The proposals include a strategic review of estates.

**Crime and Disorder:** The programme is aimed at improving the service for the public including community safety.

**Children's Act 2004:** No specific implications

**Stakeholder/Community Engagement:** The programme is joint between the Police and the Fire and Rescue Service.

**Environment:** No specific implications

**Collaboration and Partnerships:** Key subject.

**Value for Money and Productivity:** Key aim of work.

**Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities:** No specific implications

**Commissioning:** No specific implications

**Other risks:** No specific implications

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