



## **Police and Crime Panel**

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

### **Enhancing Collaboration between Durham Constabulary and Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service**

#### **Report of Chief of Staff**

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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.

#### **Current Position**

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 on a more formal basis.
3. On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015 they announced they had signed a Statement of Intent to collaborate (attached at Appendix 2). 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 PCC and the Chair / Vice-Chair of the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) have established appropriate governance arrangements to enable effective decision-making. These are set out at appendix 3.
5. The governance arrangements are headed by a politically-led Joint Strategy Group, consisting of the PCC, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the FRA, the Chief Constable and Acting Chief Fire Officer. This group is responsible for key strategic decisions on collaboration (noting that the FRA will be consulted where appropriate, and the Police and Crime Panel will receive reports).
6. A Delivery Group advises and reports to the Joint Strategy Group. This Delivery Group, which is responsible for executing decisions, consists of the

OPCC Chief of Staff, the Police Assistant Chief Officer, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, and the Fire and Rescue Service Head of Corporate Resources.

7. The Joint Strategy Group held its first meeting on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December to consider priorities. They agreed that the top four priorities would be:

A. Strategic review of Estates

Consideration of what further efficiency and operational benefits could be realised from taking a holistic view of both organisations' assets and identifying further opportunities for sharing their existing estate to provide a fit for purpose property portfolio that meets the future operational needs of both services. Including:

- Strategic Review
- Shared use of stations
- Back office assets including workshops and archive

B. Control Room

Consideration of the potential benefits, feasibility and costs of a more integrated control room function. Including:

- Co-location of control rooms
- Provision of fall-back / resilience facilities
- Shared ICT facilities

(Note that the current characteristics and arrangements of the two organisations' control rooms make co-location in this area challenging; therefore the first step is work to understand fully the feasibility of such a move.)

C. Training and Development

Consideration of what further collaboration on training and development could help to raise the capacity and capability of both workforces. Including:

- Intervene to Protect a Child
- Driver training

D. Back Office transactional services

Consideration of how the organisations could collaborate further in all back office functions, in order to drive out efficiencies, improve services and increase resilience. Including:

- Financial Processes
- Procurement
- HR
- ICT

- Communications
- Printing

8. In addition, the following areas would also be considered, particularly with regard to identifying quick wins.

E. Operational Response

Consideration of the feasibility and benefits of sharing workforce resources between the three emergency services and the local authorities. Including:

- Expansion of Community Safety Responders model into other geographical areas

F. Community Safety

Exploration of the feasibility of establishing a joint community safety team in areas of shared responsibility. Including:

- Road safety
- Anti-social behaviour
- Arson reduction

G. Risk, Resilience and emergency planning

Exploration of the feasibility and benefits of expanding the existing collaborative working in relation to responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act with regard to preparing for emergencies. Including:

- Co-location of staff
- Joint emergency planning team

9. In addition to these areas, the organisations will look to deepen their relationship via general sharing of expertise, knowledge, advice and information.

10. Regular reports will be provided to the Police and Crime Panel and the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority. In order to broaden understanding and share knowledge, the Joint Strategy Group agreed that Police representatives (e.g. PCC) might attend meetings of the Fire and Rescue Authority, and Fire and Rescue representatives (e.g. Chief Fire Officer) might attend the Police and Crime Panel.

**Recommendation**

11. Members of the Police and Crime Panel are asked to:

- Note the progress made and provide any comments and / or questions for the PCC;
- Endorse the proposal that representatives of the Fire and Rescue Service might attend meetings of the Police and Crime Panel, to broaden understanding and share knowledge.

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

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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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