

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 15 July 2019

**BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION AND SITE SHARING ARRANGEMENTS**

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**Executive Summary:**

This paper provides an update on the ongoing work for Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) colleagues who are working collaboratively with Lancashire Constabulary leads as previously approved. Operational leads have progressed project related documents to define those work streams that are recommended for continuation and identified work streams that should be closed due to a lack of benefit identification.

LFRS has over a period of time developed a number of site sharing arrangements with partners. These include formal agencies such as North West Ambulance Service, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire County Council and the Blood Transfusion Service. Arrangements are in place with regards to the storage of equipment, vehicles and some use of the LFRS site welfare facilities. LFRS also has contracts with telecommunications companies with regards to commercial mast installations at some sites. This paper provides a summary of the existing site sharing collaborations and proposals that are currently under review.

**Decision Required:**

The Planning Committee is asked to note and endorse the report.

**Background:**

The Blue Light Collaboration programme has now had a full time resource attached to it for 6 months. Within these 6 months, out of the original 32 ideas, 17 of them have been closed after initial scoping from both organisations. They have been closed on the basis that there are no tangible benefits for either organisation or the people of Lancashire. Some have been placed on hold with a future review date; whereby it is not the right time for the two organisations to invest time and resource to the specific work stream. There are however, 15 opportunities still being looked into and advanced within this programme.

This includes the main 5 projects:

- Missing persons and real time demand management;
- Public Order training site;
- Occupational health services;
- Fire crime scene investigation accreditation;
- Neighbourhood level collaborative activity.

And another 10 categorised as ‘business as usual’:

- Integrated youth volunteer partnership;
- Fuel business continuity planning;
- Vehicle maintenance for LFRS flexi duty officer cars;
- Command unit incorporating JESIP principles;
- Duty officer communication;
- Shared data, risk and analytical reporting;
- Joint communications activity;
- Shared asset management;
- First aid provision;
- Second event drone.

The leadership for the collaboration has changed since the last Executive Collaboration Board as Superintendent Karen Edwards has now moved role and Superintendent Damien Darcy has taken over at Lancashire Constabulary HQ. As well as this, Group Manager Phil Jones has taken over from ACFO Ben Norman as Programme Manager for LFRS.

The Blue Light Collaboration Programme Board meetings Co- Chaired by Group Manager Phil Jones, LFRS and Superintendent Damian Darcy, Lancashire Constabulary continue to deliver project management related control to the Programme. The first meeting under the new Chair’s was held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019, where updates were provided from work-stream leads. These meetings continue to take place on a quarterly basis.

Scrutiny of the Collaboration Board is in the form of a Quarterly Executive Collaboration Board, chaired by ACFO Norman and DCC Gamblin. Also in attendance are the collaboration leads GM Jones and Supt Darcy.

The early Blue Light Collaboration Programme Board work has been further shaped and defined into 3 key project management related documents according to status; these are Project Initiation Documents, Health Reports and Scoping Closure Reports. A change from the previous paper is the removal of the Highlight report and replacement with a Health Report. This was a joint decision, which will make updates easier, less demanding on resources and easier to track progress.

### **LFRS Site Sharing Collaborations:**

Currently the partner with the largest scale of site sharing collaborations and subsequent revenue cost related benefits is North West Ambulance Service (NWS). Operational crews share the station facilities at N11 Lancaster, C50 Preston and E76 Darwen fire stations. In addition to the above formal lease arrangements, there are licence arrangements at both N13 Bolton-Le-Sands and P94 Nelson fire stations whereby NWS crews make use of the welfare facilities on an ad-hoc basis.

Site sharing arrangements with Lancashire Constabulary follow a similar format in that there are sites with formal lease arrangements, these being N33 Preesall, W36 St Annes and S56 Skelmersdale. At these locations police staff have hot desk office accommodation for circa 3-4 officers and make use of the welfare facilities. At both W35 Lytham and E72 Great Harwood the welfare facilities and on-site parking facilities are utilised by Lancashire Constabulary staff on a drop in ad-hoc basis.

Discussions remain ongoing with regards to potential site sharing with NWS at P74 Rawtenstall and also with Lancashire Constabulary with regards to W37 South Shore.

Telecommunication masts are installed at W37 South Shore, P93 Barnoldswick, S56 Skelmersdale and Service Training Centre sites with lease arrangements in place.

Licence arrangements are also in place for a number of site sharing practices with other organisations or charities. This includes the use of station facilities for community engagement events, vehicle storage and multi-agency office facilities.

The arrangements with health related partners is the most significant with blood bikes currently being stored by LFRS at N12 Morecambe, W30 Blackpool, P90 Burnley, E70 Hyndburn (x2) and S57 Penwortham (x2). In addition to this LFRS supports the Blood Transfusion Service through the sharing of E70 Hyndburn and S54 Chorley sites for their public blood donation sessions.

Multi-agency meeting rooms and office accommodation is provided at both S54 Chorley and P94 Nelson, these partnerships support the Local Authority (Chorley) Early Action project and also the Lancashire County Council Early Help provision (Nelson).

Partnerships that enhance LFRS' operational response arrangements are supported in the format of vehicle and equipment stowage. This includes the Salvation Army and Red Cross at Service HQ, Bay Search and Rescue at Bolton-Le-Sands and also support for Operation Florian in the format of storage at Service Training Centre.

LFRS has a long standing relationship with the Prince's Trust charity and delivery of their Team Programme is hosted at the following fire station locations:

N12 Morecambe  
N32 Fleetwood  
W37 South Shore  
P75 Haslingden or E70 Hyndburn  
P90 Burnley  
P94 Nelson  
E71 Blackburn  
C50 Preston

1 of the 9 teams is not located at an LFRS' fire station, this is the second team in Preston and they are based at Oakham Court in premises leased from Preston City Council.

## **Business Risk**

Due to the change of legislation and expectations of the HMICFRS inspectorate arrangements, LFRS is required to provide greater clarity on the evidence captured as a part of ongoing and future collaboration opportunities.

## **Sustainability or Environmental Impact**

None identified at this scope phase.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

None identified at this scope phase.

## **HR Implications**

Recruitment completed of a joint Programme Administrator for an initial period of 12 months. Lancashire Constabulary is the employer and LFRS will fund 50% of the post during 2018/19.

## **Financial Implications**

Interim costs such as staff training and programme management will be met from existing budgets on an equal share basis.

## **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

### **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact Ben Norman Tel. 01772 866801
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		