

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 25 November 2019

BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION AND EXISTING SITE SHARING ARRANGEMENTS

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Executive Summary:

This paper details the ongoing work by Police and Fire colleagues on the work-streams originally agreed by both organisations. 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.

The paper also provides clarity on the governance and operational scrutiny of the Blue Light Collaboration Programme. This details the governance and scrutiny role of the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), along with the strategic and operational responsibilities of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer/ Deputy Chief Constable and their respective teams.

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.

All site sharing collaborations are covered contractually through the creation of a bespoke lease or licence agreement dependent on the scope and scale of the arrangements.

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

Recommendation:

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

Background:

The Blue Light Collaboration programme is now embedded into both Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire FRS's corporate programme. Work is continuing to provide an attendee from NWAS, so that all 3 Blue Light services under the duty to collaborate are represented. From the original 32 ideas recommended, several have been closed after initial scoping from both organisations. They have closed on the basis that there are no tangible benefits for either organisation or the public, or it is not the right time for the organisations to invest in it.

There are however, 14 opportunities still being looked into and advanced within this programme.

This includes the main 4 projects:

- Fire crime scene investigation accreditation
- Missing persons phase '2'
- Real Time Demand Management
- Public Order Training Site

And another 10 categorised as 'business as usual':

- Recruitment activity for Police support staff to become On-Call Firefighters
- Fuel BCP
- 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
- LFRS relocation to Police HQ
- Shared asset management
- Second event drone

Business as usual collaborations, are still continuing and allows LFRS to see cost benefits. Lancashire FRS has recently added Lancashire Constabulary onto their Drone Insurance Policy. This has saved the police a great deal of time in organising their own insurance and the additional cost of a bespoke policy. In turn, this has allowed Lancashire FRS to recover half of the cost of the policy from the police, which is a 50% saving on the usual cost of the premium.

It has been calculated that the ongoing secondment of Police staff onto the Prince's Trust courses, has amounted to large savings over the last 16 years. This is equivalent to 32 members of staff over this period. Although there are currently no Police staff seconded to the teams, the agreement is still in place.

The governance of the collaboration boards have changed since the last update in the summer. The joint funded project support officer role has now come to the end of the 12 month contract and the post has now ceased. Conversations are continuing as to whether there would be a benefit to both organisations, if the role was again funded for a further period. The board chair has not changed from Group Manager Phil Jones; however the co-chair is now Chief Superintendent Ian Dawson, soon to be replaced by Superintendent Nicky Evans.

It is proposed that governance and scrutiny will continue in the format of a bi-annual meeting of the CFA and OPCC. Two representatives from each of the CFA and OPCC will attend these meetings, along with the strategic leads for each of LFRS (Assistant Chief Fire Officer) and Lancashire Constabulary (Deputy Chief Constable); these officers will provide the required strategic updates with support from operational leads as required.

Scrutiny of the Collaboration Board is in the form of a Quarterly Executive Collaboration Board, chaired by ACFO Norman and DCC Woods. Also in attendance are the collaboration leads GM Jones and Ch Supt Dawson. At the November 2019 meeting the work plan for 2020/21 was agreed and the board commissioned further evaluation of the deliverables to date.

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 Share:

Currently the partner with the largest scale of site sharing collaborations and subsequent revenue cost related benefits is North West Ambulance Service (NWAS). 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 NWAS 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.

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 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 SHQ, Bay Search and Rescue at Bolton-Le-Sands and also support for Operation Florian in the format of storage at STC.

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 one of LFRS' fire stations, 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 12 month period. Lancashire Constabulary is the employer and LFRS will fund 50% of the post during 2019/20. A review of long term post requirements remains ongoing.

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:		