

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held on 10th February 2020

BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION

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Executive Summary

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service continue to work closely with Lancashire Constabulary on a number of work areas under the Duty to Collaborate agenda. During the last quarter the engagement with North West Ambulance Service was enhanced with the appointment of a dedicated lead and project managers from the three emergency services are now scheduled to meet regularly.

Work remains ongoing in terms of both 'business as usual' level activities and the scope phase developments of large-scale work packages that will require significant resources and scrutiny if moved to the implementation phase.

Recommendation

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

Information

The Blue Light Collaboration programme is now embedded into both Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) corporate programme and a number of work streams remain open and are operating within the scope phase.

During the last quarter NWS have identified a single point of contact to operate in the project lead role and the officer for each of the three blue light services have attended a planning meeting.

Since the last Planning Committee meeting developments within business as usual activities have concluded collaborative benefits with regards to specialist protective clothing for LFRS National Incident Liaison Officers, a shared Business Continuity Plan for bulk fuel stocks and a memorandum of understanding has been drafted with regards to shared utilisation of the four drones held across LFRS (2) and Lancashire Constabulary (2).

There are a number of long-term projects that remain in scope phase and this report provides an update with regards to the fire crime scene investigation accreditation, public order training and real time demand management.

Fire crime scene investigation accreditation

A number of meetings have been held between Lancashire Constabulary and LFRS in relation to the ongoing Fire Investigation International Standards Organisation (ISO) process, these meetings have formed the basis of an agreement including a Project

Initiation Document and Terms of Reference. Joint project leads continue to work closely in order to identify the national developments of the new Fire Investigation standards in order to embed best practice for arson fire management within the county. Lancashire Police Quality Manager and an LFRS Incident Intelligence Officer attended a recent NFCC National Fire Investigation Accreditation update, some of the outcomes include: The Forensic Science Regulator has agreed to put back the implementation date of the ISO until October 2021.

A small-scale forensic company has agreed to carry out a 'dry run' assessment with Fire and Rescue Services in order to see what the real issues are with the process. This took place in late 2019 and they will publish the results shortly which will inform next steps.

The emerging national position is identifying that many fire and rescue services are shaping draft agreements with their respective police force in order to discharge their fire investigation duties under a Section 22a collaborative arrangement. LFRS and Lancashire Constabulary are awaiting further clarity from the National Fire Chiefs Council and National Police Chiefs Council leads before determination can be made on next steps. Further clarity is anticipated at the next stakeholder meeting which is programmed for May 2020.

Real Time Demand Management

The collaborative ambition seeks to establish if there are opportunities to route specific aspects of 'Real Time Demand' from Lancashire Constabulary's Contact Management Centre to LFRS' North West Fire Control (NWFC). This would see LFRS as the primary responders to such incident types, wherein there has been a variable response to date, based upon the information passed by the caller into the 999 control room.

In practical terms this would determine the most appropriate resource to mobilise within the already established pre-determined attendance in line with a specific call-set requirement. Automated routing of such incident types through to North West Fire Control, would accompany this as a longer-term ambition, which is currently on hold due to a phased reconfiguration of the Contact Management Centre at Lancashire Constabulary HQ.

Detailed analysis has been undertaken of calls received, to determine those that are the appropriate type for a primary response via LFRS. Work is progressing to develop and design a process to select and transfer appropriate incidents to LFRS via NWFC. Examples of which include Persons Trapped or injured; where a FRS primary response, would provide assistance at an earlier point with higher levels of equipment and personnel.

Nominated leads from each organisation are currently considering the next steps, in order that a trial may be considered in a defined geographic area of Lancashire.

Public Order Training Site

Lancashire Constabulary has commissioned a piece of work to review the delivery of their Public Order Training, this includes aspects such as civil disorder, door entry and other operational expertise areas. The current training delivery utilises facilities at a

number of sites and it is anticipated that there could be a more effective and efficient delivery model through site consolidation.

A number of possible sites are being evaluated and Lancashire Constabulary has requested that LFRS considers the potential for the Public Order Training to be delivered at LFRS training Centre, Euxton. In order to consider the potential for this collaboration there have been a number of work packages delivered, these include a scale and scope of the land requirements, evaluation of any training related benefits to LFRS, potential impacts to LFRS' future site use including the possible relocation of LFRS' headquarters to the Euxton site.

This evaluation work remains ongoing and recommendations from the project team will be considered by the collaboration board leads in the next quarter.

Business Risk

The changes to ISO accreditation with regards to fire investigation may have impacts upon the methods of investigating, evidence capturing and subsequent reporting of arson events. Currently LFRS and Lancashire Constabulary work collaboratively in a manner that leads to some of the highest detection and conviction rates. Effective adjustment to the changing standards is required to ensure this effective delivery is maintained.

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

None identified at this scope phase.

Financial Implications

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

As each of the key projects defined in this report are in scope phase there are no indicative costs at this time. Financial implications would be a feature of a full business case if and when projects are developed to such phase.

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:		