

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	JOINT POLICE & FIRE COLLABORATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	13 OCTOBER 2015	REPORT NO:	CFO/087/15
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER CHIEF CONSTABLE		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER CHIEF CONSTABLE	REPORT AUTHOR:	JOHN MCNEILL HELEN CORCORAN
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TITLE OF REPORT:	BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION - PROJECT UPDATE		
APPENDICES:	APPENDIX 1	OPPORTUNITIES ASSESMENT TEMPLATE	

Purpose of Report

1. To inform members of progress to date with the Emergency Services Collaboration Programme.

Recommendation

2. That Members;
 - a. Instruct the Programme Board to carry out a full opportunities assessment
 - b. Instruct the Programme Board over any strategic considerations which need to be taken into account during the opportunities assessment phase.

Introduction and Background

3. At its meeting on 1st September 2015 the Joint Police and Fire Collaboration Committee ("the Committee") considered report CFO/073/15.
4. The Committee approved the recommendations of the report relating to the Guiding Principles for the Collaboration Programme and instructed the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) and Chief Constable (CC) to undertake a joint review of existing and potential opportunities for collaboration in line with the methodology detailed within the Guiding Principles.
5. The Guiding principles included a Programme timetable which commenced with a 28 day research and programme initiation period, during which time the Collaboration Programme Team would deliver a range of initiating activities. The table below provides a summary of progress against each deliverable.

<u>Deliverable</u>	<u>Current situation</u>	<u>R.A.G.</u>
Agree Terms of Reference and define governance process.	<p>Terms of Reference have been compiled and agreed for the following working groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Estates and co-location • Community Risk Management • Response • Operations (Preparedness) • Corporate Services • Communications and Engagement 	
Establish a Coordination Lead and internal project team.	The team has been set up with a Collaboration lead from each agency identified. An internal collaboration programme team has been created.	
Establish a Review Lead in each business area.	A review lead from each agency has been identified and meetings have taken place to agree working methodologies. Regular working group meetings are being scheduled.	
Create an overarching Project Plan.	This has been created and will be maintained by the Programme Team	
Establish 'best practice'/benchmarking with other Fire and Rescue and Police Services	Research and benchmarking has been undertaken and a paper presented to the Collaboration Programme Board.	
Map current position in terms of costs and resources.	Various mapping activities have been carried out for work streams which will be further developed as part of the evidence base to form the Opportunity Assessment.	
Map current function/service delivery.		
Identify stakeholder groups.	All potential stakeholder groups have been identified and are contained in the Communications and Engagement Plan	
Create communications and engagement plan.	A plan has been developed which details the arrangements for communications and engagement with all stakeholders.	

Create risk register.	A Risk Register has been created and will be maintained by the Collaboration Programme Team.	
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6. From the beginning of October 2015 the Collaboration Programme is moving forward into the second phase which is a 90 day scoping period for the following business areas:

- Shared Estate and co-location
- Ways of Working -
 - Community Risk Management
 - Response
 - Operations (Preparedness)
- Corporate Services

7. Each Working Group will develop an opportunities assessment; this will be an evidence based report considering all identified opportunities and will include high level cost and benefit analysis, threats, risks and interdependencies and potential timescales for development. The template to be used for the opportunities assessment is attached to this report at appendix 1.

8. In developing the opportunity assessment, it is important for the Programme Team to understand if there are any strategic considerations from Members or the PCC that need to be taken into account.

Home Office/Department for Communities and Local Government and Department for Health Consultation Paper: Enabling closer working between the Emergency Services.

9. The Government is consulting on a series of measures to transform the delivery of local fire and rescue and police services, and drive greater collaboration between the police, fire and rescue and NHS ambulance services. Each organisation is currently compiling their own response to the consultation which is open until 23rd October 2015

10. The following measures are being consulted upon:

- Introducing a new duty on all three emergency services to actively consider collaboration opportunities with one another to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
- Enabling Police and Crime Commissioners to take on duties and responsibilities of fire and rescue authorities, where a local case is made.
- Where a Police and Crime Commissioner takes on the responsibilities of a fire and rescue authority, enabling him or her to create a single employer for police and fire staff, facilitating the sharing of back office functions and streamlining management

- In areas where a Police and Crime Commissioner has not become responsible for fire and rescue services, enabling them to have responsibilities on their local fire and rescue authority.
- Abolishing the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and giving the Mayor of London direct responsibilities for the fire and rescue services in London, as will be the case in Greater Manchester.

11. The Merseyside FRA response to the consultation is contained elsewhere on the agenda for the meeting today.

Equality and Diversity Implications

12. Any identified deliverables arising for the programme will be subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment throughout the development process and compliance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 will be maintained.

Staff Implications

13. It is recognised that there is the potential for significant impact on the staff of both organisations, however this cannot be fully gauged until further analysis has taken place. A Communication and Engagement Plan will detail the approach to be taken in keeping staff fully informed of the process.

14. MFRS and Merseyside Police will now enter into consultation with all relevant stakeholders and representative bodies.

Legal Implications

15. There is a significant amount of legislation affecting both organisations both existing and in the form of Bills progressing through the Parliamentary process. These include Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill 2015 which has passed the House of Lords stages and will need to be re-examined by the House of Commons by 1st and 2nd Reading Committee and Report Stages, 3rd Reading and Royal Assent.

16. All relevant legislation will need to be taken fully into consideration when establishing potential collaboration outcomes. The Collaboration Programme Team will liaise closely with the Legal Teams in each organisation. The Legal Teams will monitor changes and progress of legislation and advise the Collaboration Team accordingly. Legal advice will also be provided to the Chief Officer Board.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

17. Cost benefit analysis will be an integral part of all outcomes as part of the Collaboration Programme.

18. A joint financial modelling package is being developed by the collaboration leads, with support from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and Merseyside Police Finance Officers

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

19. Each project work stream will be delivered in line with recognised project methodology. A risk register has been created which will be maintained by the Collaboration Programme Team.

Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters*

'Community First'

20. The communities of Merseyside will continue to benefit from the best possible protection from its' Blue Light Services and put the community at the heart of everything we do.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Police and Fire Committee Report – CFO/073/15

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill

Home Office/Department for Communities and Local Government and Department for Health Consultation Paper: Enabling closer working between the Emergency Services

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA **M**erseyside **F**ire and **R**escue **A**uthority

MFRS **M**erseyside **F**ire and **R**escue **S**ervice

PCC **P**olice and **C**rime **C**ommissioner