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**REPORT AUTHOR:** CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

**SUBJECT:** BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION

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Background Papers: Blue Light Workstream update Document

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Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL	✓	FINANCIAL	
HUMAN RESOURCES		EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL		POLICY	✓
CORPORATE RISK	Known	OTHER (please specify)	
	New	CORE BRIEF	

*Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.*

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) of the current status of 'Blue Light' collaboration workstreams.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the FRA acknowledges the content of the report.

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Policing and Crime Act 2017 provides a mandate for Blue Light services to achieve closer working, collaboration and integration where appropriate in the interests of greater transparency, efficiency gains and provide improved value to the community. This report provides an update on the workstreams currently in progress and being delivered jointly and primarily between Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and Bedfordshire Police. East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust is also a partner in one of the operational initiatives and in estate co-location.

1.2 The Project is managed through a Project Board which benefits from joint Chair arrangements between the Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Deputy Chief Constable and delivery is supported locally by the Partnership Development Manager.

## 2. **Project Management**

2.1 The Project Management Group continues to meet and is jointly Chaired by ACFO Ian Evans and DCC Garry Forsyth. The meetings alternate between respective Headquarters and will now take place at two month intervals.

2.2 The Project governance arrangements are being strengthened following the recommendations of the RSM audit on Blue Light Collaboration in July 2017. The final report was submitted in November 2017.

2.3 The outcomes identified by the RSM audit were submitted to Blue Light Collaboration Board on 23 November 2017 and the Board has been briefed on progress and targets with all actions due for completion by 31 March 2018.

2.4 Following recent guidance from the Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group which is under the auspices of The Minister's Office, the Project has been redefined as a Programme which progresses a range of individual projects. This requires a minor change to the Governance arrangements and will not impact on progress or reporting.

2.5 Work in progress is ahead of schedule.

## 3. **Estates**

### 3.1 **Joint Headquarters:**

- Bedfordshire Borough Council (BBC) is waiting for release of the loan from the One Public Estate Office to enable the scoping project for a joint headquarters prior to conveying to Bedfordshire Police.
- BBC requires BFRS and Bedfordshire Police to form an agreement for submission to "One Public Estate" Transforming Bedfordshire Partnership Board, which agrees mutual obligations, commitments, loan repayment arrangements and spending profiles which are proportionate to estate values. A brief for the Consultant will also need to be mutually drafted and agreed.
- Arrangements for joint governance through a Project Management group are being developed.

### 3.2 **Co-Location Sites:**

- Amptill Community Fire Station is operational with three Police staff and one volunteer being based there. An evaluation of the working arrangements will be undertaken in early 2018. A joint evaluation process is in progress and due to be completed by mid-February.

- Bedford Community Fire Station, Barkers Lane, is fully operational with six Police staff based there and the shared office operating as a 'drop-in' for members of other community policing teams. A joint evaluation process is in progress and due to be completed by mid-February.
- Shefford Community Fire Station opportunity is being reviewed by Police.
- Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station is fully operational. Attention is required to address issues that have arisen as part of establishing the shared facility. Bedfordshire Police are taking responsibility for installing a lightning conductor and earthing rod to protect the new gymnasium. Exploratory work is being undertaken to increase the number of female toilet units on site as the existing provision does not support the gender profile of staff now that Police requirements are known.
- Two dates, either 28 March or 5 April 2018 have been identified by the PCC Office for an official launch of Leighton Buzzard co-location subject to diary commitments of invitees.
- Luton Community Fire Station has been removed from the list of potential co-locations for the time being as there is no current business requirement. The accommodation which was intended for this is going to be used for a different BFRS service.
- Use of Dunstable Community Fire Station has been explored by East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST) as a possible base for two vehicles and three staff, however EEAST have decided not to go ahead at this time and so an alternative but collaborative use of the space is being sought with the voluntary sector.
- Harrold Community Fire Station is now being used as a 'drop-in' venue by front line Police response vehicles.
- Bury Park Community Centre office is now available for Police and BFRS. Two dates for the official launch by the PCC have been identified as either 28 March or 5 April 2018 subject to the invitees' diary commitments.
- An internal room user guide has been produced and will be lodged on the Service Intranet.
- The Service is working with the centre and community leaders to identify key invitees from the community.

#### 4. **Response**

##### 4.1 **Missing Vulnerable Person Searches:**

- The current arrangements for BFRS being mobilised to support Police in searches for vulnerable persons are under review after a period of response and following a joint meeting on 18 December 2017 the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been rewritten.
- An evaluation report on the first year of operation will go to the next Project Board. The revised MoU takes account of the learning from the evaluation.

#### 4.2 **Effecting Entry:**

- An evaluation report on the first 15 months of operation will go to the next Project Board.
- The evaluation concludes that BFRS is achieving increased public safety through provision of a faster response time than can be achieved by EEAST or Bedfordshire Police. This is particularly so in those “Risk to Life” situations reported at time of call. Work is in progress to consider alternative contractor arrangements for making premises secure following forced entry.
- This workstream is proving effective and is likely to continue as part of response arrangements.

#### 4.3 **Co-Responding:**

- Currently on hold due to on-going national negotiations linked to pay and conditions.

### 5. **Operations**

#### 5.1 **Body Worn Cameras:**

- It is intended to amalgamate the policies for all video data capture equipment including building mounted cameras, vehicle mounted cameras, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV, or Drone) and those Body worn cameras to be trialled this year.

#### 5.2 **Vulnerable People:**

- BFRS working in Partnership with Police in taking forward ‘Herbert Protocol’ referrals.
- A three-way data-share agreement is in development between partners.

#### 5.3 **Drone (UAV):**

- The procurement of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV, or Drone) has been through a tender process however there has been an inadequate tender response both in terms of the number of responses and the financial impact. Wider collaboration options for Police and FRS UAV operational capability across the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire area are now being explored.

#### 5.4 **Fire Service Control:**

- Station Commander (Control) has been security cleared and trained to access Police STORM system for ‘real time’ incident monitoring and risk management. This is now operational and subject to an assessment of benefit and value to the operation, access will be extended to all Control watch personnel.

- This provides improved communications, risk awareness and demand monitoring.
- Work is in progress to explore the viability of Control assuming the responsibility for the Services security job management system. This is seen as reducing a potential security risk given the increased movements at our sites by providing 24/7 cover through our mobilising officers.

## 5.5 **Motorcycle Deployment and Training:**

- A scoping exercise has commenced to explore opportunities for deployment of BFRS motorcycles for transporting Blood and Organs.
- A further element of the scoping exercise is development of a training provision to other Blue Light services. The first “Train the trainer” course will be in April 2018 with the course resources and programme currently being written. This will then enable training courses to be provided routinely to external organisations on a full cost recovery basis.

## 6. **Resource Sharing**

### 6.1 **Joint Chaplaincy**

DCC Garry Forsyth will contact the Bishop to explore the opportunity for joint chaplaincy.

### 6.2 **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

There is an exploration being undertaken of the potential for BFRS and Bedfordshire Police to collaborate on the Governance structure for this new legislation. The purpose is to seek economies of joint scale which potentially remove the need for BFRS to create an additional management role to meet the requirements of the Act Regulations.

### 6.3 **Datashare Agreement**

Work is in progress to explore whether a single Data Share Agreement can be created which is able to provide an overarching authority to share information. It would replace all individually established agreements.

- 6.4 Investigations continue into whether BFRS Community Safety team could benefit from having shared access to Police STORM Incident reporting system. Focus is on whether the reporting system may reduce personal risk and provide access to owner occupier details.

**PAUL M FULLER CBE QFSM DL  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**