

Bedfordshire Tri-Service Blue Light Estates Strategy

[text only initial draft v0.1]

FOREWORD

[Short paragraphs undersigned with photos by both political leaders and officers of the 3 blue light services]

Introduction

We are committed to doing everything we can to make Bedfordshire safer by creating and then nurturing outstanding collaborative opportunities. The Tri Service Estate Strategy will support the Blue Light Collaboration Strategic Board and the strategic objectives and intentions of all three emergency services.

We operate in a challenging and changing environment.

In order to continue to provide resilient, responsive and professional services, we will meet a range of challenges including:

- Supporting collaboration ensuring value for money.
- Keeping the customer at the centre of everything we do.
- Keeping our stakeholders involved and informed.
- Operating as efficiently as possible and within financial constraints.
- Reducing our impact on the environment.

Working together across the public sector and other partners is a key element to maintaining the delivery of high-quality services. Our estate supports everything that we do – from the policies we create, to the public services we provide and the communities we serve across the area.

Key Principles

Underpinning the estate vision are five key strategic principles for the estate strategy.

We aim to;

1. Have an estate in the right location, with enough flexibility to efficiently and effectively work alongside partner agencies to reduce running costs.
2. Have buildings of the right size to support an efficient and effective service, being highly visible to ensure public confidence and operational viability for all partner agencies to co-locate whenever possible.
3. Provide good quality buildings, with enough functionality and flexibility, to support the effective operation and delivery of the business, wellbeing of staff and to meet the diverse needs of our community.
4. Provide and maintain a sustainable estate in the right condition to support the effective operation and delivery and to minimise the potential for any disruption to the services.
5. Deliver services and investments, ensuring value for money, at the right time and right quality and promote energy efficiency.

Current Estate Provision

At the end on 2021/22, the combined estate of all three services includes:

- 30 buildings including 14 fire stations and one headquarters building in Kempston, owned outright by BFRS;
- 15 police buildings, including 6 leased buildings and one building at Luton Airport;
- 7 buildings used by EEAST which includes their Control building in Bedford.

There are several success stories that have delivered improved service delivery and tangible efficiencies:

- Shared estates between BP and BFRS at Ampthill, Bedford, Leighton Buzzard and Toddington Fire Station;
- Shared estates between EEAST and BFRS at Dunstable, Shefford, Sandy, Stopsley, Luton , and Bedford Fire Station.

Opportunities exist to for further collaboration including; vehicle workshops, headquarters, developing commercial opportunities, hosting other public service agencies, welfare and sports facilities, car parks, and headquarters kitchen facilities.

[Insert MAP of current estates provision]

How will we deliver ambition and monitor progress?

We will monitor progress of this strategy in the following ways:

- Develop clear action plans – with Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timebound (SMART) measures of success.
- Governance – the Blue Light Collaboration Strategic Board will ensure the strategy is being delivered.
- Reporting and Scrutiny - through the established BLCSB and then individual governance committee structures to monitor progress and take any corrective action.
- Measuring Perceptions and Sense Check - we will regularly survey staff that have and have not co-located to inform and check progress.
- Keeping up to date - we will provide regular progress reports and update the action plan annually and publish on our websites.

[Signpost to police, fire and ambulance websites]

Signatories

[Provision of signatories of 3 Chief Officers/Chief Executive and 3 Political Leaders/Chairs]