

For Publication

**Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
16 October 2017
Item No. 12**

REPORT AUTHORS: HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

SUBJECT: BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION

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Background Papers: Blue Light Workstream Update Document.

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.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the current status of Blue Light collaboration workstreams

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Members acknowledge 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 tax payer. This report provides an update on the workstreams currently in progress and being delivered jointly and primarily between Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue and Bedfordshire Police. East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust are also partners 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 Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Deputy Chief Constable.

CHRIS BALL

HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION UPDATE

Project Management

- Management Group Continues to meet monthly and alternating Police/Fire Chair and host premises at DCFO and DCC level.

Estates:

OPE funded joint Headquarters

- Police estates working on a revised bid which will be available for agreement at Joint Chief Officers' meeting in October in readiness for formal submission of bid in early November.
- Agreement to form a separate working group for this project rather than Blue Light Collaboration group managing it.
- **Ampthill**
 - An additional PCSO has joined the team. Now 2x PCSO and Police Officer x1
 - 6 NHS Clinical staff are now using the car Park. Severe parking in the Health Centre car park and the local area meant that the clinicians had found it virtually impossible to park. This impacted upon their service delivery times. BFRS has received positive feedback from NHS Managers and an expression of gratitude in which they identified benefits.
 - Further talks around placing a portakabin on station land adjacent to the station are possible. This may occur as some local redevelopment and change of use of local buildings occurs as the NHS restructures its services. NHS is aware of BFRS willingness to discuss this if the need arises.
- **Shefford**
 - Waiting for Police to complete needs assessment
- **Leighton Buzzard**
 - Police completed co-location on August 30th and are now operational.
 - Build of new BFRS gymnasium temporary building (10 year life) in final stages
 - There is to be an internal discussion by Police to assess whether their community policing strategy requires a phase 2 to be taken forward. If a phase 2 is required, it will be in the form of the siting of another temporary building.
 - Request submitted to Council for rehatching the junction of the station exit road and Lake St and to relocate the bus stop on Lake St which through the build-up of traffic waiting behind stationary buses, impedes vehicle egress from station.

- Waiting arrangements for formal opening of station with PCC, BFRS, Police and local dignitaries to be made once the “tidy up” is completed following building works in station yard and new temporary gym building completed.
- **Harrold**
 - 15th September, Police resurrected a previously cancelled request for station to be a drop-in for Officers requiring a break. This will be taken forward.
- **Luton**
 - Police hotdesking x 3 in SAO agreed with BFRS but this option of co-location is on hold waiting Police to identify their exact needs.
 - There remains an open option if required, for BFRS staff to Hotdesk in Luton Police station following mandatory vetting of BFRS staff.
- **Barkers Lane**
 - Police moved in and now operational. An evaluation of co-location and service benefits is to be completed before year end.
 - Work is underway to explore the possibility of developing 2 additional car parking spaces to accommodate Police response vehicles.
 - Midshires Search and Rescue have commenced the vehicle garaging arrangement and are providing BFRS with details of training opportunities
 - Road Victims Trust has moved into NAO and is now working there full time.

Bury Park Community Centre, Luton

- Room now painted, branded with BFRS Logo and ready for use.
- Photocall with PCC, FRA, senior BFRS/Police and Community leaders to be organised for mid-October.

Co-responding

- The trial continues with Leighton Buzzard and Biggleswade station personnel responding as required.
- BFRS waiting national developments and information to inform next steps of trial.

Body Worn Cameras

- Draft Policy in consultation.
- Equality Assessment – completed.
- Cameras now made available to Training centre staff.
- Waiting operational deployment.

Searching for Vulnerable missing persons

- BFRS working with Police to validate the data and currently being evaluated with production of process maps being completed which will include the process associated with “Herbert Protocol”, a national scheme for the voluntary registration and provision of personal data by people with dementia.
- The collaboration will continue as a routine operation but with the benefit of learning from the evaluation.

Forced entry

- Currently being evaluated and FRS working with Police and EEAST to validate data.
- Collaboration will continue and benefiting from communication improvements between BP and BFRS Controls.

Reporting of Arson

- Work currently being undertaken to clarify needs and responsibilities to effect improved reporting. The work will enable more detailed mapping and assist with “Red Route” planning, a Blue Light Collaboration project.

Drone(s)

- Drone specification reviewed and upgraded in Light of new information from CFOA Drone Communities Group and national working party.
- Paperwork for Procurement of Drone to be submitted end of September following final liaison with Police Drone Unit.
- Privacy Impact Assessment, Policy and Equality Evaluation to be completed simultaneously to procurement process.
- BFRS/Police Responsibilities re meeting running costs clarified.

Joint Chaplaincy

- Bishop has been approached by DCC Colbourne informally to seek his views on how to approach this, given previous absence of response to recruitment advert
- DCC Colbourne now to write formally to Bishop with request to source a Joint Chaplaincy provision as part of Parish income generation.

Independent PCC support by the FRS Head of Finance

The FRS Head of Finance will provide an independent overview role for the PCC. This will be circa two days a month and will be chargeable. The areas to be covered will include Budget Strategy and Setting, Statement of Accounts, insurance, risk, attending the Audit Committee and performance monitoring.