
REPORT AUTHOR: CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

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

That Members acknowledge the content of the report.

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 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 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.
 - 2.2 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. Work in progress is ahead of schedule.
3. Estates
 - 3.1 **Joint Headquarters:**
 - The One Public Estate (OPE) bid for a feasibility study of a joint headquarters has been submitted and an announcement on the bid outcome is expected on 7 December 2017 at Borough Hall where the Housing Minister will be in attendance.
 - 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.
 - Bedford Community Fire Station, Barkers Lane, is fully operational with six Police staff being based there and the shared office operating as a 'drop-in' for members of other community policing teams.
 - Shefford Community Fire Station opportunity is being reviewed by Police.
 - Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station is fully operational with all building works completed to programme. Agreement on ownership and maintenance arrangement for the gym building is being finalised and the gym is now available for use. The site is also serving as a 'drop-in' for frontline policing operational response vehicles based in the south of the county.
 - Luton Community Fire Station is having Police broadband installed in readiness for any future co-location or hot-desking arrangements.

- Use of Dunstable 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.
- Harrold Community Fire Station is now being used as a 'drop-in' venue by front line Police response vehicles.

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 subject to a joint meeting on 18 December 2017 to discuss.
- An evaluation of the first year of operation is in progress by PDM.

4.2 **Effecting Entry:**

- Evaluation of the first 500 calls for assistance is currently in progress by PDM.
- Early findings show that BFRS is attending where risk to life is reported and where first on scene BFRS crews are providing medical intervention.
- This workstream is proving effective and will look 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:**

- All supporting policy documentation has been written and consulted on.
- Live trial planned for December following completion of a detailed trial outcome briefing, after a period of assessment within Training.

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):**

- Invitations to tender (ITT) issued week commencing 6 November 2017 and process due to complete in February 2018.
- An assessment day will be arranged to support effective procurement.

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.
- Technology is also in place to enable this sharing.
- This provides improved communications, risk awareness and demand monitoring.

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.

6. **Resource Sharing**

6.1 **Joint Chaplaincy**

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

**PAUL M FULLER CBE QFSM DL
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