

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority  
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Item No. 11

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**REPORT AUTHOR:** CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

**SUBJECT:** BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION

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Background Papers: Blue Light Collaboration Updates

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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 (BFRS) and Bedfordshire Police (BP) East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) is also a partner in one of the operational initiatives and in estate co-location.
- 1.2 The Project is managed through a Programme Board which benefits from joint Chair arrangements between the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Deputy Chief Constable and delivery is supported locally by the Partnership Development Manager.
- 1.3 As reported in the previous update to FRA, the management of Blue Light Collaboration work has transitioned from a Project Board to being a Programme Board overseeing a range of individual Projects.

### 2. Programme Management

- 2.1 The Programme Management Group continues to meet and is chaired jointly by DCFO Andrew Hopkinson and DCC Garry Forsyth. The meetings alternate between respective Headquarters and take place at two month intervals. The host organisation chairs the meeting.

- 2.2 The Programme governance arrangements were strengthened following the recommendations of the RSM audit on Blue Light Collaboration in July 2017. The final report was submitted in November 2017. The outcomes identified by the RSM audit have all been completed.
- 2.3 The work of the Programme Board is now supported by the establishment of a sub-ordinate “Blue Light Collaboration Delivery Group” (note this was reported previously as Tactical Delivery Group) which met for the first time on 9 November 2018. All projects and workstreams will be managed by this group who will report to the Board. Each workstream will have a lead person attributed to it for regular reporting.

### **3 Estates**

#### **3.1 Joint Headquarters:**

- 3.2 The DCFO and Head of Finance and Treasurer met with the DCC and Assistant Chief Officer from Bedfordshire Police on 9 November to discuss and review the current position and ambition, from both Police and Fire perspectives, for the joint headquarters collaboration project and how best to move it forward.
- 3.3 Both parties re-affirmed their commitment to working towards co-locating the functions based at our respective HQ sites.
- 3.4 To move the project forward, it was agreed to establish a specific joint project team, reporting into the Blue Light Collaboration Strategic Board. It was agreed in principle to appoint a dedicated project manager on an initial 6 month fixed term contract. A key priority will be to revisit and finalise user requirements/specifications, drawing on the knowledge and experience of relevant stakeholders from each organisation.
- 3.5 A 1 day workshop to be established, ideally before the next Blue Light CSB, to bring the key stakeholders, brief on requirements and use the time to review requirements and specifications.

#### **3.6 Co-Location Sites with activity since last FRA:**

- Bedford Community Fire Station continues to operate with six Police staff based there and the shared office operating as a ‘drop-in’ for members of other community policing teams. An evaluation has been completed in October by Police which will be shared at next Collaboration Strategic Board in January.

- Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station is fully operational with the scheme of works to increase the number of female toilet units and shower facilities on site is in progress.

#### 4. **Response**

##### 4.1 **Effecting Entry:**

- The current arrangements for BFRS being mobilised to effect an entry to premises where Medical emergencies are reported been evaluated and we will continue to support this initiative with BP and EEAST.

##### 4.2 **Co-Responding:**

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

##### 4.3 **What3Words**

- BFRS is currently working with Police and a commercial provider to explore use of a new Mobile Geo-Application which provides pinpoint accuracy to 3m x 3m. Police are going live with this in December and BFRS Control is examining the process and how it relates to current work in progress with technical equipment.

#### 5. **Operations**

##### 5.1 **Vulnerable People:**

- BFRS is working in Partnership with Police and operating the 'Herbert Protocol' and generating two way referrals.
- Work is in progress to enable an application to join the scheme to be completed and accessed on the Service website
- A three-way data-share agreement is in development between partners.

##### 5.2 **Drone (UAV):**

- Training was completed in November but, nationally, this model of drone was grounded due to a technical problem with batteries which is being addressed under warranty by manufacturer.

- Police are leading on work to establish a Regional Fire/Police Memorandum of Understanding to provide joint regional support and interoperability.

### 5.3 **Fire Service Control:**

- Local inter-control room processes have been agreed which will offer improved communications when serious incidents occur.
- Police are now routinely emailing all Control staff with details of any incidents which could impact upon BFRS mobilisation and passage.

### 5.4 **Red Routes**

- Following incidents, BFRS is now returning to station through known areas of high Burglary risk and logging the journey. The data is collected on a monthly basis and sent to Police analysts. Each month, the analysts provide us with the post codes they want us to use the following month. At 6 months Police will evaluate the trial and form a view if it is effective in reducing crime.

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

- A scoping exercise has commenced to explore opportunities for training Blood Bike Charity motorcyclists to help them expand their network. We are also considering the implications of providing response in that network.
- We now have permission from College of Policing to train Police motorcyclists for response under Blue Lights.

### 5.6. **Response Driver training (cars)**

- There is a scoping exercise in progress to identify ways in which BFRS could provide response driver training to Police to alleviate their lack of capacity and backlog. This would necessarily require a financial commitment from Police to aid additional recruitment and for BFRS to recover costs of training time.
- There is a possibility of using income from motorcycle training to pump-prime this arrangement.

6. **Support Services**

6.1. **Communications and Engagement/P.R.**

- Work will commence in January to explore the potential extent and options for collaboration between BFRS and Police Communications departments.

7. Further updates will be presented to future meetings of the FRA.

**PAUL M FULLER CBE QFSM MStJ DL  
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