



## Creating a safer Cambridgeshire

**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 16 January 2018

### **Strategic Police and Fire Interoperability MoU Update**

#### **1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on the new Police/Fire/Ambulance Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which was signed by local interested parties in December 2017.

#### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of this report.

#### **3. Background**

3.1 The National Emergency Service Collaboration Working Group has showcased the benefits of different organisations coming together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the services they deliver to their communities. Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and East of England Ambulance Service have fully supported this ethos and worked hard in recent years to build on their already strong relationships to improve services and save money.

3.2 In 2015, the Government set out its legislative programme, which included plans to enable Police and Fire to work much more closely together and to develop the role of

Police and Crime Commissioners across both services. Future governance and accountability models for the Fire Service are currently under consideration, which may bring changes locally to the way the service is scrutinised and held to public account. Independent consultants have been fully engaged in the scoping work around future local governance arrangements and a formal decision regarding the way forward in Cambridgeshire is awaited.

- 3.3 In 2016, the joint Police/Fire/Ambulance Interoperability Group was formed and chaired jointly by Chief Officers in Fire and Police. Through this forum, emergency services within Cambridgeshire committed to working more closely together to provide services that are value for money and are attuned to the needs of local communities. Positive partnership working would provide opportunities to innovate and to align services whilst retaining the distinct identity and public service duties of each organisation.
- 3.4 A range of operational and organisational initiatives were agreed, notably between police and fire, which would allow development of innovative partnerships to drive service improvements and efficiencies. Chief Officer Teams agreed that both services would identify opportunities for improved interoperability and joint working to protect front line services, reduce duplication across the two organisations, rationalise estates and improve the quality of the response to incidents by pursuing innovative crewing arrangements.
- 3.5 The following strategic principles were set:
- I. Reduce duplication across Police and Fire.
  - II. Engage with communities on crime prevention, fire prevention and public safety advice, delivered in a cost effective and streamlined way.
  - III. Better support the public in enabling them to manage their own issues.
  - IV. Encourage more specials and volunteers to become involved in the Emergency Services and provide them with a broader set of skills and opportunities.
  - V. Offer improved service to victims and crime and casualties.
  - VI. More effectively protect the public and safeguard the vulnerable.
  - VII. Offer greater strength and resilience across the emergency services to respond to emerging threats to the community.
  - VIII. Provide value for money by making best use of the Police and Fire estate and sharing support functions where it is cost effective to do so.
  - IX. Support the ethos of interoperability.

#### **4. Current highlights**

- 4.1 There have been a range of strategic and tactical interoperability initiatives over the last 12 months and tremendous goodwill across agencies to work effectively together.
- 4.2 Governance

A Police/Fire Interoperability Group has been established to provide direction and momentum to joint working initiatives. This group has provided a coordinated approach to interoperability, as well as overseeing short and medium term projects. A project management infrastructure has been put in place and a process for prioritising work streams established.

The Chief Officer Teams meet regularly to share strategic vision and identify opportunities for collaborative change.

#### 4.3 Arson

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service has worked in collaboration with Cambridgeshire Constabulary for a number of years to reduce the risk of arson and to respond jointly to issues of fire safety and exploitation in overcrowded domestic premises alongside trading standards. An MoU between Police and Fire across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire has just been signed, which establishes joint working protocols for arson investigation across the three counties.

#### 4.4 Estates

The most significant emerging issue has been the scoping of opportunities for the development of a Joint Police/Fire Training site at Monks Wood. Fire have a critical need for the establishment of a new local training provision for the delivery of operational, organisational and leadership training. Current fire training arrangements are fragile and there is an opportunity for a wide range of refresher and specialist fire training to be delivered at Monks Wood. There are a range of planning and environmental issues to be considered and an initial pre-planning paper has been submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council. This is still in the feasibility phase and, should it be supported, there will be considerable financial and project management issues to be considered by both organisations.

The other most significant strategic issue is the potential business opportunities for shared estate/property management between Police and Fire. Opportunities are still being scoped.

A joint deployment base is being scoped for St Neots, with ongoing land searches and options for a joint local station/agile facility.

The plans have now been finalised for an extension to Wisbech Fire Station and the eventual relocation of Wisbech Police Station into the joint site. The joint use of Ramsey Fire Station has now been finalised and use of Yaxley Fire Station as a police deployment base has been agreed, with Airwave storage concerns being worked through. Joint use of Whittlesey and Linton have been agreed.

#### 4.5 Local Resilience Forum

Cambridgeshire Fire and Police are both key partners of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum, responsible for developing multi-agency emergency management arrangements for emergency or major incidents. The forum produces operational plans which are tested and trained through joint exercise

between Category 1 responders. Through this forum the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) has been implemented and continues to be embedded as business as usual. Both Police and Fire operate to the Joint Doctrine: The Interoperability Framework, which includes a Joint Decision Model and command practices to ensure an integrated and standardised approach to the joint management of incidents.

The development of the Local Resilience Forum is entering a key stage. A police sergeant has been seconded to the Fire Service to carry out a review of the Local Resilience Forum and identify opportunities with local councils for better multi agency working and preparedness for critical/major incident response.

#### 4.6 Training opportunities

A joint training sub group continues to look at joint training provision and interoperability opportunities. The following has been implemented jointly:

- Fire delivery of HGV training to police.
- Fire delivery of Level 3 Education and Training to police trainers.
- Police pilot on Fire Aspire Programme.
- Joint delivery of JESIP training 2017. Good feedback from assurance visit by National Team.
- Police exploring opportunities for loggist training for Fire.
- Police exploring modular investigative interviewing for Arson Investigators.
- Specialist Support/Equipment.

The Specialist Operational Group has developed a series of MoUs for the sharing of equipment and providing added value by staff working jointly across agencies. There has been strong organisational will on all sides. A specialist equipment catalogue has been developed which sets sharing protocols for a wide range of operational equipment and services. Provisions include:

- Deployment of police drone and 3D imaging equipment to fire incidents.
- Joint river rescue capacity.
- Shared access to lighting, barriers, tents, fencing, mobile toilets, and road closure signage.
- Fire command vehicle being tested at joint incident and footage from CCTV and body worn video to be accessed from both Major Operations Rooms.
- Formalising fire support to police officers working at heights in risk to life incidents.
- Formalising fire Method of Entry support to police/ambulance at risk to life incidents. Police retain primacy in the management of board up services through BOING.
- Fire go live with Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) in April 2018 and joint agency support in response to critical incidents agreed.
- Fire critical incident support to missing from homes - agreed in principle but currently suspended. Subject to review.

#### 4.7 Organisational Support

Corporate development and inspection teams in both organisations have worked together on key projects during 2017 and plan to continue for joint inspections, quality assurance and sharing of good practice in 2018.

An MoU for police use of fire vehicles at Peterborough is in place.

Police access to the designated smoking area at Fire Headquarters are being finalised.

The provision of security cards to Fire/Police staff to allow access to both HQ sites has been agreed.

Access to Police x-ray facility agreed for Fire postal services during critical incident, with protocol in place.

#### 5. Memorandum of Understanding

- 5.1 In December 2017, a MoU was signed between Police, Fire and Ambulance to formalise collaborative working arrangements and to demonstrate a strategic commitment to the principles of interoperability. This document will help establish the terms for future working relations between the emergency services across Cambridgeshire.

#### 6. Recommendation

- 6.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of this report.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

<b>Source Documents</b>	
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Chief Superintendent Vicky Skeels, Cambridgeshire Constabulary Area Commander Callum Faint, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service