



Creating a safer  
**Cambridgeshire**

**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 25 February 2020

**Strategic Police and Fire Interoperability – Operational Update**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on the Police/Fire/Ambulance initiatives that are currently being delivered as well as those that are being planned.

**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 The established joint Police/Fire/Ambulance Interoperability Group is chaired jointly by Chief Officers in Fire and Police. Through this forum, emergency services within Cambridgeshire are committed to working more closely together to provide services that are value for money and are attuned to the needs of local communities. This

positive partnership working provides opportunities to innovate and to align services whilst retaining the distinct identity and public service duties of each organisation.

- 3.3 A range of operational and organisational initiatives have been agreed, notably between police and fire, which allow the 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.
- 3.4 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 been signed, which establishes joint working protocols for arson investigation across the three counties.

#### 4.4 Estates

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

Shared canteen and gym facilities at Cambridgeshire Constabulary Headquarters allows staff to develop, maintain and improve their personal fitness. Both organisations are committed to sharing these facilities to enhance the offering and commitment to staff without the need to build additional facilities.

#### 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.

All documentation, information and operational plans are shared on a computer platform called Resilience Direct. This is shared with the wider partner agencies such as County and District councils, Public Health and so on.

A full twelve month joint training/exercise programme is schedule for 2020/21 that deals with large issues such as mass fatality, urban area evacuation, loss of utilities, sever weather to name just a few.

#### 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.
- Joint command training (Police, Fire Ambulance) at marauding terrorist incidents working alongside armed policing training.
- Fire crews being involved in Public Order Training when a crowd of over 150 protestors are present simulating a riot scenario with burning vehicles.

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:

- Drones – the deployment of police drone and 3D imaging equipment to fire incidents providing evidence for a business plan. The joint training of pilots where both agencies will fly under a single CAA (Civil Aviation Authority).
- Joint river rescue training and 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.

#### 4.7 Organisational Support

An MoU for police use of fire vehicles at Peterborough is in place. Vehicles are available at Dogsthorpe or Stanground Fire Station for community based work in Peterborough by the police

Police access to the designated smoking area at Fire Headquarters has been established.

The provision of security cards to Fire/Police staff to allow access to both HQ sites is now business as usual.

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

Joint Operations:

Operation Pheasant in Fenland is a multiagency approach to Modern Day Slavery criminal activity. Fire safety officers form part of the joint enforcement team targeting rogue landlords. This has now been extended to Peterborough

Operational Armitage is a joint CFRS/Norfolk FRS/Cambridgeshire Police/National Farmers Union/Power Stations initiative in combatting Haystack Fires.

CFRS are working with MIND, Cambridgeshire police and the Ambulance Service in de stigmatising mental health issues within the emergency service sector through our Blue Light Pledge and cross service working group.

## 5. Memorandum of Understanding

- 5.1 The current MoU that has been signed between Police, Fire and Ambulance to formalise collaborative working arrangements and to demonstrate a strategic

commitment to the principles of interoperability continues to assist the 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>	Superintendent Robin Sissons, Cambridgeshire Constabulary Chris Parker, Head of operational support, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service