

Report to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel – 28th January 2019

Update on governance arrangements for the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Fire and Rescue Authority and collaboration between Staffordshire Police and the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Fire and Rescue Service

Report of the Staffordshire Commissioner

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The report updates the panel on the current position regarding the Staffordshire Commissioner's (SC) role in developing governance arrangements for fire and rescue in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and progressing collaborative opportunities between the Fire and Rescue Service and Staffordshire Police.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Panel note and comment on the contents of the report.

3. Background

Governance

- 3.1 Following the change of governance on 1st August 2018, both Staffordshire Police and the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Fire and Rescue Service have been developing work on collaborative opportunities.
- 3.2 Governance arrangements have been developed and the transition arrangements reviewed through the Commissioner's independent internal audit function. The internal audit report on the transition of governance arrangements provides a substantial level of assurance.

4. Collaboration progress to date

- 4.1 The business case that was submitted to the Home Office outlined a number of potential areas for collaboration. These were highlighted together with existing collaborative working arrangements in the last report to the Panel in October 2018.
- 4.2 A collaboration board has been established to provide a forum for both the Chief Fire Officer and the Chief Constable to progress areas for collaboration and to deliver against the efficiencies detailed within the business case.

- 4.3 The priorities for collaboration are the bringing together of 'enabling services' and the development of greater joint use of the police and fire estate.
- 4.4 On 'enabling services' a project manager has been recruited and commenced work on 14 January 2019. He will lead the project team and work closely with department heads and representatives from all of the functions involved to ensure the robust project plan that is required, is in place and that implementation of change occurs. He is independent of both services and reports to the Collaboration Board, which consists of senior representatives of each organisation.
- 4.4 At the last board meeting on 20 December 2018, the ambition to combine the services outlined in Phase 1 – Communications; Human Resources; Estates; and Procurement – was reviewed, alongside the latest draft of the project plan and a spring 2019 implementation date agreed. This would involve all Fire and Rescue staff affected transferring under TUPE regulations to Staffordshire Police, subject to consultation and agreement being reached. This plan has been communicated with affected staff and their representatives, through communication channels that have been established. Phase 2 of the 'enabling services' work will involve a further number of 'enabling' services.
- 4.5 Workshops are now underway with the relevant Heads of Departments. These sessions will consider many aspects of the work areas in scope - including demand, structures and future possibilities / opportunities.
- 4.6 On estates, plans are being put in place to consider the immediate opportunities and priorities to be progressed. The rationalisation of estate remains a priority and progress on some high profile opportunities is expected to be confirmed shortly.

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