

TO: Policy and Resources Committee

FROM: Deputy Chief Executive – Matthew Warren

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DATE: 14 December 2017

JOINT PROPERTY STRUCTURE PROPOSAL

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present the Policy and Resources Committee with an outline of the initial plans for a joint property structure with Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Policy and Resources Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and endorse plans to develop a business case for presentation to Fire Authority.

3. Risk Assessment

- 3.1 **Economic** – it is anticipated that there will be savings across the two organisations. However from a fire perspective the primary objective will be the resilience created by merging the two teams.
- 3.2 **Political** – Members will appreciate the duty that they now have to collaborate with emergency service partners; this initiative embraces said duty.

4. Background

- 4.1 Earlier this year, the Government introduced a number of provisions in the Policing and Crime Act 2017 to give renewed emphasis and energy to the transformation of emergency services in England. One of the key measures of the 2017 Act was the creation of a statutory duty to collaborate, which covers police, fire and ambulance services.
- 4.2 Since late 2016 the Service has been in discussions with the Constabulary to explore the possibility of creating one property team to provide a service across both organisations.
- 4.3 Work completed to date includes a comparison of the services that we provide internally and those that we outsource, to identify opportunities where

these could be brought in line with each other. A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats or SWOT analysis has also been carried out for each organisation to inform the potential collaboration.

5. Objectives, Benefits and Planning

- 5.1 The main objective of the collaboration is to provide an improved service with greater resilience across the combined estate, whilst continuing to align and share assets across the two organisations.
- 5.2 To further assist in aligning assets and to realise the potential for cost savings across the Services, a full review of the property teams is being undertaken to understand how they might be merged effectively to create a resilient, single team of skilled professionals working across the entire property portfolio without duplication of effort.
- 5.3 One of the difficulties in maintaining a fully skilled team within our Service, particularly those with qualifications, has been attracting appropriately skilled professionals. This is also a challenge for our blue light partners. The creation of a shared team could potentially reduce this issue and associated recruitment costs and ensure both organisations, by not competing for a similar resource, benefit from any appointments to role.
- 5.4 A full business case, including potential options for creating a merged team, will be presented to the Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner in February 2018, for approval.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document	Location	Contact
None		