

**TO:** Policy and Resources Committee

**FROM:** Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Matthew Warren

**PRESENTING OFFICER(S):** Matthew Warren

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## **HUNTINGDON PROPERTY RATIONALISATION**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To present the Policy and Resources Committee with an update on the Huntingdon property rationalisation and the opportunities for joint review of this estate with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cambridgeshire.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- approve the creation of a joint review project focused on rationalising the fire and police estate within Huntingdon, whilst considering the opportunities to work with the East of England Ambulance Service,
- approve that a report is presented to the Fire Authority in February 2017 outlining progress and options,
- consider member representation on the proposed project board.

### **3. Risk Assessment**

- 3.1 **Economic** – continued delays in the rationalisation of our Huntingdon estate may lead to price increases and could result in the land at St John's being lost.
- 3.2 **Political** – the Police and Crime Bill continues to progress through Parliament and is expected to become statute in early 2017. The Bill stipulates a requirement to collaborate and as such any decision to proceed after the offer of a joint project with the police could attract significant interest. This Bill also represents an opportunity for the Authority to achieve its ambition of rationalising assets with other blue light services and public sector partners.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 The PCC has requested that the Authority pause its development of a new fire station site, incorporating a central training facility and headquarters. The request in June 2016 was accompanied by a proposal to utilise police land for any potential redevelopment.
- 4.2 The Policy and Resources Committee requested additional information from the PCC that would provide them with a foundation to pause and/or change the decision. Whilst significant work has been undertaken by the PCC's office, owing to the timescales set, no significant proposal has been forthcoming.
- 4.3 Officers have continued to engage in dialogue with the PCC's office. There is acceptance from the PCC's office that the existing Huntingdon fire and training facilities are in need of significant refresh to meet the changing focus of the fire and rescue service.
- 4.4 It is also now understood that the PCC has potential opportunity to rationalise aspects of the police estate in the Huntingdon area. Further, there is clearly an appetite to establish a joint project focussed on resolving the property issues within both services. In addition, it is hoped that the East of England Ambulance Service will also be a member of this joint project board.
- 4.5 This position represents an opportunity whereby all potential options will be explored in collaboration with the PCC's office.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<b>Source Document</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
None	Hinchingbrooke Cottage Brampton Road Huntingdon	Matthew Warren 01480 444619 <a href="mailto:matthew.warren@cambsfire.gov.uk">matthew.warren@cambsfire.gov.uk</a>