

TO: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

FROM: Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Matthew Warren

PRESENTING OFFICER(S): Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Matthew Warren

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ESTATES UPDATE

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Fire Authority with an update on the Huntingdon Community Fire and Rescue Station and Training Centre project and a general update on property collaboration with Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the Interim Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cambridgeshire.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Authority is asked to note the report.

3. Risk Assessment

- 3.1 **Political** – the Policing and Crime Bill stipulates a requirement to collaborate with other emergency services. The Service continues to embrace this requirement and is working with the local constabulary to develop and assess the viability of a number of shared projects.

4. Background

- 4.1 In late 2016 the Authority paused development of a new community fire and rescue station site incorporating a central training facility and headquarters in Huntingdon. This pause led to a review of potential options for relocating elements of the original proposal onto constabulary land. However earlier this year policing requirements for the identified preferred site at Monkswood changed removing the option for fire to relocate its training facility onto it.
- 4.2 A number of other shared property projects were also paused. However the interim PCC and constabulary are now keen to progress with alternative collaborations. In addition to the sharing of physical sites, both organisations are looking again into whether a shared property department would provide efficiency and value for money gains. This report details the progress made against all the collaboration schemes.

5. Huntingdon Community Fire and Rescue Station/Training Centre

- 5.1 The Chairman, after consultation with the Authority, approved the revised scheme in March 2020. Since approval, the Service has worked with partners to progress the project in a timely manner. Attached at **Appendix 1** is the latest project timetable, which provides an estimate of the key milestones for the overall project.
- 5.2 Since March the negotiation of the land price has also been finalised, with a price agreed and Heads of Terms for the sale currently going through the legal process. Alongside the land purchase, formal Heads of Terms and a development agreement have been formalised and the detailed building design for planning has commenced. The Service has appointed a Property Adviser and a Quantity Surveyor to ensure all cost projections are understood and challenged where appropriate. It is anticipated that the legal agreements will be finalised by mid July 2020; all will be subject to a positive planning decision.
- 5.3 The Service has also approved the commencement of site surveys that will be used to inform the formal planning application.

6. St Neots

- 6.1 Both fire and police have significant sites in the town of St Neots although the constabulary site is not effectively utilised owing to historic changes in its operational use. It is proposed that the police relocate into the fire station however any relocation will be subject to building modifications and an extension financed by the constabulary from the sale of their current site. At this time, the formal plans are being developed by the constabulary. Once complete, the fire station employees will be consulted with and briefed on the proposed use of the site, which may include a police enquiry office.

7. St Ives

- 7.1 The respective properties in St Ives are both significant sites with very little occupancy. At this time, development potential is being assessed for both sites with the fire site being assessed for development with the adjoining health site. The Service will seek to relocate to a smaller site within the town so that the current site can be released. It is not anticipated that sharing premises with the police will be taken forward as the constabulary wish to maintain local policing provisions within the town centre.

8. Cambridge

- 8.1 The constabulary are currently going through the significant process of relocating its Parkside Police Station onto an alternative site on the outskirts of Cambridge. They do have a desire to maintain a city centre presence when the current site is vacated and have made a request that the Service consider sharing its current site. The constabulary has been asked for a detailed plan of their space requirements and a formal assessment will be made on viability once this information is received.

9. Shared Property Department

- 9.1 The original piece of work on assessing the viability of sharing property departments began in 2017 but was halted due to the on-going Judicial Review process. However, as stated in Paragraph 4.2 above, the interim PCC and constabulary are supportive of this evaluation re-commencing. Whilst this piece of work is undertaken, sharing of resources and skills across both organisations will happen. It is anticipated that further updates on progress will be provided in December 2020 and February 2021.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document	Location	Contact Officer
None	Hinchingsbrooke Cottage Brampton Road Huntingdon	Matthew Warren 01480 444619 matthew.warren@cambsfire.gov.uk