

## **Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority**

**7 December 2011**

### **Blue Lamp Trust – Update**

#### **Report of the Chief Officer**

Contact: Area Manager Mick Crennell – 023 8062 6853

## **1 Summary**

- 1.1 The Blue Lamp Trust (BLT) was established on 9 September 2010. The Trust is a joint charitable initiative between Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hampshire Constabulary designed to reduce community risk (particularly amongst vulnerable groups) and enhance well-being for the people of Hampshire. The Fire Authority committed to support the BLT at the June 2010 meeting and subsequently pledged to underwrite the cost of an administrative post for one year.
- 1.2 This report updates the Fire Authority on progress and impact made to date.
- 1.3 In terms of structure, the Fire Authority Chairman and the Chief Officer are both established trustees to the BLT board. Additionally we have an Area Manager who acts as the Fire and Rescue Service main coordinator.
- 1.4 Funding for the Trust takes a number of forms – charitable donations, corporate Trust membership and provision of driver awareness training courses. The Trust is currently focussed on actively pursuing income via driving courses and increasing corporate membership levels.
- 1.5 HFRS are providing shared accommodation within our Service Headquarters site at Eastleigh for the BLT office and its staff. This enables us to work proactively and closely with the Trust to achieve our joint ambitions.
- 1.6 The BLT have had a successful first year of operation in terms of establishing the Trust, its infrastructure and governance arrangements and is beginning to make progress in achieving its strategic aims and ambitions. The Trust has also now absorbed and is continuing to deliver and expand upon the excellent community work of the Bobby Scheme.

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 To acknowledge the progress made by the Blue Lamp Trust since its establishment.

- 2.2 To provide continued support for the Blue Lamp Trust and its aims and ambitions.

### **3 Introduction and Background**

- 3.1 The Blue Lamp Trust (BLT) is a joint charitable initiative between Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hampshire Constabulary designed to reduce community risk and enhance community well-being particularly in relation to crime, fire and road risk. A report to the June 2010 meeting which laid out those aims was supported by the Fire Authority.
- 3.2 The purpose of the trust is to promote community safety and security for the people of Hampshire. It focuses on both home safety and road safety.

The Trust's strategic aims and objectives are:

- Crime prevention and reducing the fear of crime, particularly in relation to vulnerable people who have been, or who are at risk of becoming, victims of crime
- Reducing crime, or the fear of crime, within the business community
- Reducing death and injury caused by crashes on our roads
- Promoting fire safety, both within the home and the business community.

- 3.3 The BLT operates in three key areas:

- Providing an expanded Bobby Van Scheme, working in conjunction with Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams and HFRS local officers to support vulnerable victims of crime with an emphasis on home safety and home security. The Bobby Scheme is a practical service providing home security, long-life smoke alarms and peace of mind for needy, elderly and vulnerable victims of burglary.
- Providing grant funding to community groups, charities or other organisations with projects that are in line with the Trust's aims and objectives.
- Providing professional driving tuition - a service to commercial partners of the Trust as well as the public in areas of road safety and responsible driving standards. This generates income for the Trust.

- 3.4 Funding for the BLT derives from a number of sources:

- Corporate membership of the BLT
- Charitable donations
- Income from driver awareness training provision

### **4 Key highlights and activities for the first year**

- 4.1 In its first year of operation the Blue Lamp Trust has been very productive in terms of:

Developing and delivering driver awareness training courses to various groups and corporate clients.

Developing and delivering duty of care and corporate manslaughter training courses for directors and senior managers of commercial clients.

Providing a business to business (B2B) event at the Rose Bowl and providing a number of 'taster' sessions for its courses.

Provision of BLT grants to several worthwhile community projects such as:

- Havant Junior Citizens - £3500
- Hayling Island Graffiti Project - £1500
- Words Not Weapons - £3000
- Legacy Project - £3000
- Handy Project - £2400
- Hightown Older Persons Day - £400
- Faith in Football - £3000
- Hampshire Autistic Society - £2000

Developing the new Blue Lamp Trust web-site  
([www.bluelamptrust.org.uk](http://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk))

Delivering an annual road safety seminar at our Road Safety Centre at Winchester Fire Station.

Expansion of the Bobby Scheme by funding an additional Bobby van and fitter in Southampton.

## **5 Southampton Safe and Secure Homes Project**

- 5.1 Recent Local Area Agreement reward grant funding, achieved as a result of excellent community work conducted by Southampton City Council, Hampshire Constabulary and HFRS as partners, has been reinvested into the locality via the BLT by the provision of an additional Bobby Scheme van funded for two years by the Trust.

- 5.2 The "*Southampton Safe and Secure Homes*" project is aimed at increasing the capacity of the successful Bobby Scheme and widening its operational scope to include Home Safety Visits, hence reducing the potential for fire as well as crime reduction.

## **6 Contribution to Corporate Aims and Objectives**

- 6.1 The aims and objectives of the BLT align with our Service objectives and priorities within '*Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2011 to 2014*' of:

1. Reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured in fires
2. Work with partner agencies to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads
3. Help people escape, without getting hurt, from fires and other emergencies.

## **7 Risk Analysis**

- 7.1 The BLT is a charitable organisation with altruistic aims and objectives that align closely with those of HFRS in terms of community risk reduction. The current financial climate is a risk to the achievement of the ambitions of the Trust as contributor organisations reduce expenditure.
- 7.3 Appointment as trustees gives rise to certain individual responsibilities for the Chairman and Chief Officer under company and charitable law along with potential liabilities. However, these are being managed appropriately by ensuring that the Trust receives suitable professional advice and arranges trustee indemnity insurance. Appropriate governance arrangements are in place to off-set potential corporate risk to HFRS.

## **8 Resource Implications**

- 8.1 HFRS supported the funding for the BLT administrator's post for its first year of operation. It is not anticipated that this will continue.
- 8.2 HFRS are providing accommodation for the BLT office within Service Headquarters at Eastleigh. This enables us to work proactively and closely with the Trust to achieve our joint ambitions.

## **9 Impact Assessment**

- 9.1 An initial impact assessment was conducted prior to the establishment of the Trust. The activities and work carried out by the BLT are designed to reduce community risk to all people who are or may become vulnerable.
- 9.2 The proposals within this report are considered compatible with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Human Rights Act 1998, and the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

## **10 Conclusion**

- 10.1 The BLT have had a successful first year of operation in terms of establishing the Trust, its infrastructure and governance arrangements and is beginning to make an impact on its strategic aims and ambitions. Our work with the Blue Lamp Trust provides an effective and innovative model in terms of delivering collaborative prevention and community risk reduction work.

## **Background Information (Section 100D of Local Government Act 1972)**

The following documents disclose the facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of the report:

1. Blue Lamp Trust:
  - a. Aims
  - b. Draft Memorandum and Articles of Association
  - c. Guarantee Company Incorporation Instruction
  
2. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service plan 2010 to 2013  
(<http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/theservice/plan.htm>)

Note: The list excludes: (1) published works; and (2) documents that disclose exempt or confidential information defined in the Act.