

**Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority**

**Finance and General Purposes Committee**

**Item 9**

**31 July 2012**

**Blue Lamp Trust – Progress Report and Update**

**Report by the Chief Officer**

Contact: Area Manager Mick Crennell – 023 8062 6853

**1 Summary**

- 1.1 The Blue Lamp Trust (BLT) was established in September 2010 providing a joint charitable initiative between Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hampshire Constabulary. The BLT is reducing community risk (particularly amongst vulnerable groups), enhancing home security and improving road safety for the people of Hampshire.
- 1.2 The HFRA Chairman and the Chief Officer are active members of the Board of Trustees.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 HFRS are providing accommodation for the BLT office and its staff within our Service Headquarters site at Eastleigh. This enables us to work proactively and closely with the Trust to achieve our joint ambitions.
- 1.5 HFRS have commissioned the BLT to provide driver awareness training to our staff who drive for business. This investment serves to increase our driver safety, reduce accident rates (and therefore costs), protect our reputation and minimise corporate risk.
- 1.6 As a result of our close alliance, shared ambitions and joint working the BLT has granted Gold member status to HFRS.
- 1.7 This report updates the Fire Authority on the progress and impact made to date.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 To acknowledge the progress made by the Blue Lamp Trust since its establishment.
- 2.2 To endorse 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 HFRA in June 2010, and a subsequent progress update in December 2011, were 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
  - Income from corporate risk training provision

## **4 Highlights and activities**

- 4.1 The Bobby Scheme will visit between 1800 and 2000 homes in the coming year providing a free home safety and security survey and then carrying out the remedial works necessary to make these homes safe and secure. Smoke detectors will be installed, inspected and/or replaced as required and fire safety advice provided to help reduce the number of fires within domestic premises. This service is aimed very much at the elderly and most vulnerable in society and is an excellent fit with HFRS target audience.
- 4.2 As a result of our close alliance, shared ambitions and joint working the BLT has granted Gold member status to HFRS. The Gold Membership status provides an opportunity for the Service to help meet its obligations under Health and Safety legislation in respect of members of staff who drive their own vehicles for work. HFRS has around 200 such drivers who will be trained over the next four years. Initially we will identify those most at risk – those who drive the most miles on Service business each year – and prioritise training accordingly. This training will evidence a commitment on the part of the Service to meeting its legal obligations, reduce corporate risk and help contribute to reducing the number of people killed and injured on our roads.

## **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*” to:
- reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in fires;
  - work with partner agencies to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads; and
  - 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.

- 7.2 Access to BLT courses and facilities serves to increase our drivers' safety, reduce accident rates (and therefore costs), protect our reputation and minimise corporate risk.
- 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 During 2012/13 HFRS have commissioned the BLT to provide road safety training to our staff by the provision of driver awareness courses and in-car tuition to our drivers who drive HFRS vehicles during the course of their work. HFRS have therefore commissioned the BLT to deliver £27k of driver awareness training courses to our staff. Access to these courses and facilities serves to increase the driver safety of our staff members and their passengers, reduce accident rates (and therefore costs), protect our reputation and minimise corporate risk.
- 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 People 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 is designed to reduce community risk to all people who are, or may become, vulnerable.
- 9.2 The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of the equality and human rights legislation.

## **10 Conclusion**

- 10.1 Our joint work with the BLT is successfully reducing road risk and improving home safety and security for the people of Hampshire. We will continue to develop our relationship with the Trust and provide prudent investment to achieve our shared ambitions at minimal cost.

## **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

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