

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Item 9

04 November 2015

Estates Transformation

Report by the Chief Officer

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1 Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the Committee on the progress of Estates Transformation projects, including the work at Headquarters and the Station Partnerships that are developing across the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) Estate. This work with Hampshire Constabulary (HC) is being delivered in relation to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Fire Transformation Funding granted for 2015/16 which seeks to deliver more effective and efficient service provision for both partners.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the progress towards delivery of a shared Fire and Police Headquarters with Hampshire Constabulary.
- 2.2 That the Committee notes the progress towards delivery of Station Partnerships at six other HFRS sites.
- 2.3 That the Committee delegate authority to the Director of Professional Services to enter lease or licence agreements in respect of the Station Partnerships in this paper where authority is not already granted under the scheme of delegation.

3 Introduction

- 3.1 The HFRS and HC/Office of the Police and Crime Commissioners (OPCC) property and estates teams have been working together since 2012 to identify opportunities which will deliver cost savings and support a more joined up approach to public service delivery in Hampshire. This has resulted in positive joint working on fire stations at Stockbridge, Alresford, Redbridge and Winchester as well as the current HFRS Headquarters at Eastleigh.

4 Fire and Police Headquarters

- 4.1 The first phase of the building work at headquarters started in August 2015 and is due for completion in November 2015. Subsequent phases of the project will see building work continue on the headquarters site until Summer 2016. This will see the renovation of the main building, and the completion of a new command and conference facility.
- 4.2 During November 2015 the newly renovated areas of the headquarters building will be fitted with furniture and IT equipment in order to enable approximately 110 members of HC to move into the building. A number of HFRS teams will also move back into the refurbished areas of the building.
- 4.3 There has been a significant amount of disruption to staff in preparation for the building works to commence and after the construction work started. There are currently 80 members of staff working out of temporary accommodation on the headquarters site, whilst a number of teams have been relocated onto fire stations for the duration of the building work.
- 4.4 The project is progressing well and within agreed budgets. A detailed timescale for the remaining phases of the project will be finalised once the detailed design work is completed. It is anticipated that all building works will be completed during Summer 2016.

5 Station Partnerships

- 5.1 HFRS made a successful bid for funding to the DCLG for investment on the station partnerships we are creating with HC. A project board, consisting of representatives from HFRS, HC and the OPCC has been convened to oversee the development of new Station Partnerships at sites including Southsea, Hightown, Ringwood and Hardley fire stations alongside the development of the existing Partnership at Redbridge fire station.
- 5.2 Sites will primarily be used as bases for HC's Neighbourhood Policing Teams with between 10 and 50 officers based at each location working over a number of shifts.
- 5.3 These new Station Partnerships will further enhance the closer working relationships between Fire and Police that have been witnessed at existing collocation sites. The collocations have the potential to act as a catalyst for close operational relationships and local initiatives to the benefit of Hampshire communities. In some collocations it is anticipated that the local HFRS Station Manager will share office accommodation with the local HC Inspector.
- 5.4 HFRA have previously committed £140k of Capital Reserves to these works, with an additional £210k from the DCLG's Fire Transformation Grant and a £555k investment from the OPCC. This funding will enable modification of sites to accommodate the Police along with the enhancement and improvement of shared space at the sites. It is anticipated that these collocations will produce an annual financial benefit to HFRA in the region of £110k p.a.
- 5.5 Delivery of these new collocation sites will be timed to make the best use of

resources across the partner organisations and is expected to be completed by June 2016.

6 Supporting our corporate aims and objectives

- 6.1 One of the Authority's priorities is to manage assets, including buildings, land and equipment in a cost effective way. The proposals and actions taken in this report support this objective.
- 6.2 A second priority is to build working relationships with partners to support our Service by spreading costs, increasing resilience and improving service quality. The actions in sections 4 and 5 of this report support this aim.

7 Risk analysis

- 7.1 A risk register and associated mitigation is being maintained as part of the project documentation.

8 People Impact Assessment

- 8.1 The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of the equality and human rights legislation.
- 8.2 Staff from HC and HFRS continue to be engaged with by the Project and Design Teams on the plans for both fire stations and headquarters.

9 Resource implications

- 9.1 All asset related matters in this report are considered to be cost effective and can be met from within existing resources.
- 9.2 The income from sharing premises will contribute to the Authority's efficiency savings programme.

10 Background papers

- 10.1 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:

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Scheme of Delegation to Officers
<http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/financialregulations.htm#schemeofdelegation>

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