

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 8
9 November 2016	Public Report

Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Contact Officer – Josie Gowler

Contact Details – cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk 0300 333 3456

REALISING THE OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE POLICING AND CRIME BILL

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report is being presented to the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) to provide an update on progress being made between the Police and Crime Commissioner (the “Commissioner”), Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the “Constabulary”), the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Authority (the “Fire Authority”) and East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust on realising the opportunities of the Policing and Crime Bill (the “Bill”).

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to note the report.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 Item 6 – To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the Commissioner’s functions.

Item 8 – To support the effective exercise of the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Bill which is currently making its way through Parliament promotes closer working between police and fire. The Bill is making good progress through Parliament and there is every expectation that it will gain Royal Assent in accordance with the original timetable, i.e. by January 2017.
- 4.2 The Bill introduces measures which not only allow, but in some aspects require, collaboration between the emergency services to go further and faster. These are locally enabling and recognise that local leaders are best placed to determine the sort of collaboration that is in the best interests of their communities. The Bill requires the police, fire and rescue, and ambulance services to collaborate with one another, where it would be in the interests of their efficiency or effectiveness to do so.
- 4.3 The legislation allows Commissioners to be represented on the relevant Fire Authority (or its committees) with full voting rights, subject to the consent of the Fire Authority. Alternatively, Commissioners have the option of putting forward a business case which may include arrangements to take on responsibility for the governance of fire and rescue; or to become the single employer for fire and police, to deliver greater improvements through the integration of back office functions and maximise the benefits of workforce flexibility.

- 4.4 The Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan sets out the desire to work with the Fire Authority to explore the best way for the Constabulary and the Fire and Rescue Service to work together to take forward the opportunities from this Bill via adoption of the governance model of collaboration.
- 4.5 The Fire Authority has identified the urgent need to rationalise the fire estate within Huntingdon to improve training facilities and ensure operational resilience.

5. PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 In recognition of the impending enactment of the Bill, the Commissioner's Business Co-ordination Board, at its meeting on 21 September 2016, recommended that the Commissioner and the Fire Authority, working with the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, should seek to initiate joint work to develop business cases to determine the:
- most appropriate future governance model for police and fire; and
 - best use of the emergency service land and buildings in Huntingdon.
- 5.2 The first meeting of the Huntingdon Accommodation Review Board is scheduled for 3 November 2016. A Business Case Working Group to look at the most appropriate future governance model for police and fire is in the process of being set up.
- 5.3 Examples of existing collaboration projects between the Constabulary and the Fire and Rescue Service include:
- The Safer Peterborough Partnership, where a fire officer is co-located with police, Peterborough City Council and others to tackle local community based risks and issues.
 - a number of tactical joint operations at community level such as Operation Pheasant to tackle the problems of exploitation, fraud, crime and conditions of private rented housing.
 - agreements with police and the ambulance service to use offices and bay areas in fire stations

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Policing and Crime Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2016-2017/0055/17055.pdf>

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Draft Police and Crime Plan 2017-20
www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan