

BRIEFING NOTE FOR GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY (GLA) BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE ON LONDON BLUE LIGHT SERVICES COLLABORATION

Introduction

1. This paper outlines the planned approach to exploring potential new collaboration opportunities between the three 'Blue Light' services within London (Metropolitan Police (MPS), London Fire Brigade (LFB) and London Ambulance Service (LAS)).
2. The purpose of doing this work is to seek to identify opportunities which will:
 - Improve service to Londoners
 - Save money and increase efficiency
 - Build on existing relationships and areas of collaboration. Details of these can be found at Appendix A

Work to Date

3. In November 2013, we undertook a joint piece of scoping work to:
 - Explore options for future collaboration
 - Identify what were the priorities within those options
4. Following completion of that scoping work and a discussion about each of the options, we have agreed that there are five workstreams where we believe there is real potential to meet one or more of the criteria outlined in paragraph 2. The five workstreams are:
 - Procurement:
 - To establish to what extent do the individual service procurement frameworks offer/allow collaborative procurement.
 - To identify what major procurements each service has planned.
 - To identify opportunities where two or more of the services may procure together.
 - Property:
 - LFB and LAS to formally carry out cross modelling looking at the next stage of LFB changes alongside the emerging LAS 2020 Strategy.
 - To focus more on the principle of 'shared space' not integrated space.

It should be noted that we are clear that, based on the Treasury approach, it will not be possible for one of the services to sell land at a discounted price to another nor can we charge a non-market rent.

- Control Rooms:
 - Explore what benefits there could be of sharing control rooms.
 - This would be about sharing control room space not integrating command and control systems and processes.
 - Build on learning from what has taken place in other parts of the country.
- Training:
 - Identify and use opportunities to jointly train as they arise. Recent examples would be the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) training and the LFB executive leadership programme.

- Information Management and Technology (IM and T)
 - Emergency Services Mobile Communications Project (delivering the Emergency Services (ES) Network for mobile voice and data across the country). All three services are contributing to the National Outline Business Case (OBC) specification and in London we have also initiated a London-centric Group to discuss London specific issues. The requirement specification work is currently underway and will be reviewed in January and February 2014.
 - Attendance at cross GLA Chief Information Officer (CIO) board that meets to discuss key IT issues. The board currently consists of the CIO of TfL and the Met Police, the Heads of IT for the GLA and the LFB and the Head of IT for the London Legacy Development Corporation.

Next Steps

5. With the exception of the IM and T work which is already underway, each of these workstreams will 'formally' commence in Jan 2014 with initial scoping work. Named officers from each service will work together on the shared workstreams and will meet on a regular basis.
6. The initial scoping work will include a more detailed cost/benefit analysis for each of the five workstreams to identify:
 - Key deliverables
 - Potential benefits such as:
 - Money/cash releasing
 - Increased efficiency for one or more service
 - Improved service delivery for Londoners
 - Enhances joint working
 - Potential costs of progressing each piece of work compared to the benefits it will deliver

It is planned that the scoping work will be completed by late-May and that a report be submitted to the three chiefs in early July. The report will cover the outcome of the scoping work for each area and recommendations on whether to proceed with more detailed work or not.

7. Subject to the approval process it is anticipated that each workstream will then be set up as a project to complete the detailed work. The exact time for completion of this work is difficult to describe at this stage but it is anticipated that each project will run for around six months before being in a position to report on findings.

Leadership and Oversight – Scoping Phase

8. To support this work we have established a leadership system between the three services.
 - The three Chiefs will provide strategic direction and oversight and will receive regular progress reports.
 - Building on existing relationships, there will be monthly meetings between senior officers from each of the service to discuss and review this work.
 - Nominated officers from each service will have day to day responsibility for leading the scoping work in their area of responsibility

Current Areas of Collaboration

MPS and LAS

- Joint Response Unit
- Met police Dispatch Group used in the winter
- Training of staff

LFB and LAS

- Training of staff
- Maintenance of breathing apparatus
- Shared accommodation at Barnet Fire Station
- LAS purchasing frameworks, including the National Ambulance Resilience Unit, used by the LFB for the purchase of equipment
- Plan for a pan-London project to look at increasing the number of defibrillators available in London and the utilisation of firefighters as co-responders, this would include discussions with representative bodies

MPS and LFB

- Joint responses to major incidents and joint major incident training
- JESIP
- Holloway Fire Station incorporates a base for an MPS Safer Neighbourhood team
- LFB and MPS are in discussion on sharing accommodation at Purley Fire Station which is being rebuilt
- LFB and MPS officers have met regarding the MPS Integrator with a view to soft market testing property services against the MPS Integrator