



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Executive

Date: 11 August 2016

OPPORTUNITIES OF POLICING AND CRIME BILL FOR POLICE AND FIRE

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on proposals for the Police and Crime Commissioner (the “Commissioner”) to explore opportunities for policing and fire arising from the Policing and Crime Bill.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is asked to consider the report and approve the next steps as noted in the report.

3. Background

3.1 The Policing and Crime Bill making its way through Parliament 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.

3.2 As a minimum, the legislation requires Police and Crime Commissioners (“Commissioners”) to be represented on the relevant fire and rescue authority (“FRA”) (or its committees) with full voting rights, subject to the consent of the FRA. 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. Progress to date

4.1 Examples of existing collaboration projects between the Constabulary and Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service include:

- Agreements with police and the ambulance service to use offices and bay areas in fire stations
- 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

5. Next steps

5.1 While the Bill is passing through Parliament it is proposed that an early dialogue is initiated between the Commissioner and the Fire Authority to work together to explore the best way to take forward the opportunities arising from the Bill.

6. Recommendation

6.1 The Board is asked to consider the report and approve the next steps as noted in the report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document	Policing and Crime Bill – draft Bill and progress: http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/policingandcrime.html
Contact Officer	Dr Dorothy Gregson, Chief Executive, Office of Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner