

Report of Area Commander Keith Chance

9. West Mercia Police and Warwickshire Police Operations and Communications Centre (OCC) Programme

Purpose of report

1. To inform Members of the progress of the West Mercia Police and Warwickshire Police Operations and Communications Centre (OCC) programme and to seek approval for the relocation of the HWFRS Fire Control to Hindlip Park.
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Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- i) the progress of the OCC Programme and of the planning application submitted by West Mercia Police and Warwickshire Police be noted; and.***
- ii) Officers be authorised to proceed with the relocation of Fire Control to the Hindlip Park site, on terms to be agreed by the Chief Fire Officer in consultation with the Treasurer and Head of Legal Services.***

Introduction and Background

2. In 2014 West Mercia and Warwickshire Police were successful with a bid to the Police Innovation Fund (PIF) to create a new Operations and Communications Centre (OCC) for the two forces.
3. HWFRS was invited to participate in the project and consider the relocation of its Fire Control from Service Headquarters to the OCC. A significant programme is therefore now progressing to deliver the new OCC which can accommodate existing functions into the new facility.
4. At the FRA meeting on 17 June 2015, Members received an update on the OCC Programme and were informed that further progress with regard to detailed planning would be reported as appropriate.

Current Progress

5. The Police led and funded programme to deliver the new OCC facility is well advanced and is made up of a number of individual projects. HWFRS is fully engaged in all of the projects within the programme and has an officer dedicated to each of the project teams. This will compliment but is separate and independent from any future agreement to move Service Headquarter functions to Hindlip.

6. It is anticipated that the OCC will be operational in 2017 with both Police and Fire Service operations being managed and co-ordinated from the one building subject to FRA approval.
7. On 19 October 2015, plans for the OCC building at Hindlip Park were submitted to Wychavon District Council for approval with the end of the consultation period being 4 December 2015.
8. The full plans submitted to Wychavon DC are available at: <http://wam.wychavon.gov.uk/WAM/showCaseFile.do?action=show&appType=Planning&appNumber=showCaseFile.do?action=show&appType=Planning&appNumber=W/15/02662/PN>
9. Planning permission is expected to be granted for the build in January 2016.
10. The proposed OCC building at Hindlip Park is a large single storey structure housing the OCC, Force Operations and a joint command centre. An area within the main OCC room has been made available for HWFRS and will enable Fire Control to be embedded within the OCC to foster joint working and information sharing with police counterparts to further enhance joint operational working and response. Although located within the the Police building the Fire Control function will be a stand alone function, albeit this function will benefit significantly from the co-location with the similar Police facility.
11. In addition to the Fire Control function, the HWFRS Operational Policy and Emergency Planning staff currently located at Hindlip will also have the opportunity to move to the OCC building along with Police staff from Force Operations to provide further joint working and planning between the two organisations.
12. Throughout the design phase, Fire Control staff and the Representative Bodies have been fully engaged to ensure that they have been able to gain an understanding of the benefits of o-location and influence the design and layout of the proposed build.
13. The OCC Programme will deliver:
 - Operational Command and Control Suite;
 - Strategic and Tactical Coordination Suites for major and critical incidents;
 - The ability to coordinate operational planning, duties and contingencies management;
 - The ability to respond to major incidents coordinated and managed by Cabinet Office Briefing Room (COBR) and the Local Resilience Forum (LRF);
 - The ability to drive efficiency in operating practices;
 - New ways of working including the creation of a dual control room (police and fire & rescue).
 - Improved strategic and tactical coordination.

14. On a day to day basis, the services delivered from the OCC will be:
- Call handling, dispatch and associated command of police resources across the counties of Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Warwickshire;
 - Call handling, dispatch and associated command of fire and rescue resources across Worcestershire and Herefordshire;
 - Duties and resource management for Police and HWFRS;
 - Strategic, tactical and operational planning departments for the three services;
 - Running the command suite accommodation as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, in order to deal with all critical and major incidents across Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Warwickshire.
15. Detailed planning regarding the migration phase of the Fire Control and Operational Policy functions is currently underway to ensure a smooth transition period and meet the anticipated 2017 deadline.

Conclusion/Summary

16. HWFRS is fully engaged with the West Mercia Police and Warwickshire Police OCC Programme and is a key stakeholder in all of the associated projects.
17. A request for planning permission for the new OCC building was submitted to Wychavon District Council in October 2015 and a decision is expected imminently; assuming permission is granted, it is anticipated that build work will commence soon after.
18. It is hoped that the OCC, including the HWFRS Fire Control, will be operational in 2017.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	HWFRS resources are engaged in programme planning and delivery. Detailed plans regarding transition to the new site for HWFRS operations and staff are being established and will consider financial and legal implications
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	The move of Fire Control will enable closer working with Police to improve operational response and incident management

Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	A full risk management register is available through the Police Programme Team
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	Informal engagement commenced with FBU and Control staff, formal consultation will commence as plans develop
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	A full impact assessment will be compiled as part of the programme delivery

Contact Officer

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