

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE: 28TH FEBRUARY 2018
REPORT OF: GM STEWART FORSHAW
AUTHOR: SM ANDREW WATSON

SUBJECT: NEW TRAINING CENTRE – TRAINING
TRANSITION REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To provide details of the plans which have been developed to relocate Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's (CFRS) operational and command training during the construction of the new training centre at Sadler Road.

Recommended: That Members

- [1] note the contents of the report and the attached Appendix 4 – 'Transition of Operational Training Group and Command Training Group to Alternative Locations'.

Background

2. An interdependent project of the new training centre programme is the relocation of all training which is currently delivered by the Operational Training Group (OTG) and Command Training Group (CTG) at the Sadler Road training site.
3. The aim of the relocation project is to identify suitable venues which can be used to deliver training courses for the duration of the construction of the new training centre programme.

Information

4. During the past 12 months the new training centre programme team has surveyed alternative venues owned by CFRS, and also at some external sites, to identify if they can accommodate the various core skills delivered by OTG and CTG.
5. This activity has considered whether improvements can be made to existing training facilities which are located at some fire stations so they can be used during the transition and also beyond by station based staff.
6. This activity has established that the majority of training courses can be delivered from CFRS fire stations during the construction of the new training centre, though specialist facilities will still be required elsewhere to deliver some courses.

7. Breathing Apparatus (BA) is the foremost discipline where it is necessary to outreach the training due to the requirement of providing realistic “hot” fire training to students. However, this has been resolved through collaborative working within the region with alternative outreach BA venues guaranteed at Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service (GMFRS) and North Wales Fire & Rescue Service (NWFRS) / Airbus Broughton, to be utilised by CFRS BA training instructors.
8. The outcome of all of this work provides confidence that the statutory duty placed on the Service for training staff is adhered to and delivered to the highest standard, maintaining a safe competent workforce fit for serving the communities of Cheshire.
9. The full list of courses and alternative venues are included in the ‘Transition of Operational Training Group and Command Training Group to Alternative Locations’ report which is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

Financial Implications

10. An agreed budget of £45,000 has been allocated to fund the relocation project.

Legal Implications

11. Memoranda of understanding, service level agreements and risk assessments are being developed for the use of external training venues in GMFRS and NWFRS/Airbus.

Equality and Diversity Implications

12. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the relocation of the Operational Training Group during the build phase and is documented on the Cheshire Planning system 1490. No identified implications.

Environmental Implications

13. There are no environmental implications identified.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE

Appendix 1 - Transition of Operational Training Group and Command Training Group to Alternative Locations Report