

# CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

**MEETING OF:** CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY  
**DATE:** 19 SEPTEMBER 2018  
**REPORT OF:** DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING  
**AUTHOR:** ANDREW LEADBETTER

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**SUBJECT:** ESTATES SHARING PRINCIPLES

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## Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval of the Estates Sharing Principles (the Principles).

**Recommended:** That Members:

[1] Approve the Estates Sharing Principles attached to the report as Appendix 2.

## Background

2. The Blue Light Collaboration Programme Collaboration Agreement between the Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire (the PCC) contained the following objective:
3. Provide a fit for purpose property portfolio based on future operational needs of both organisations including the identification and agreement of opportunities for co-location across both organisations' estates.
4. The objective was further developed in Annex 1 to the Programme Collaboration Agreement (Arrangements for Joint Use or Disposal of Other Premises) and this is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

## Information

5. Annex 1 to the Programme Collaboration Agreement contained some actions that were considered to be necessary in order to achieve the Joint Objective described in the Annex.
6. A joint strategic review has taken place, facilitated by external consultants. This information is being used to develop a joint approach to the sharing of estates. Ultimately, the Authority and the PCC may have a joint property strategy.
7. The Principles which are attached to this report as Appendix 2 describe certain expectations that might be relevant when the Authority and the PCC are considering the sharing of estates assets. It is worth putting the three descriptions on the second page of the Principles document into context:

#### Joint Occupation of Key Operational Sites

This would be relevant to a site like Crewe Fire Station where a joint fire and police facility could be developed.

#### Shared Occupation of Existing Estate

This would be relevant to a site like Frodsham Fire Station where police colleagues require a separate secure room as well as access to shared areas, e.g. kitchen, toilets etc..

#### Use of Existing Estate

This is included for completeness as it is similar to the various community uses that take place at the Authority's fire stations. Police colleagues would have access to shared areas from time to time with no exclusive occupation.

8. The Principles are intended to guide officers as estates sharing opportunities are developed and are not expected to be controversial. They are not binding.
9. Delivering joint facilities may lead to a real or perceived reduction in control over and/or value of fire assets. However, this needs to be balanced with potential benefits, e.g. the cost of a share in the development costs of a joint facility should be less than the cost of building a separate facility. It also helps the Authority to evidence its efforts to maximise usage of its estate.
10. Specific estates sharing proposals will need to be approved by the Fire Authority and the PCC, (apart from the Use of Existing Estate arrangements described above).

### **Financial Implications**

11. None. Financial implications will be considered for specific estates sharing opportunities.

### **Legal Implications**

12. The Principles are not legally binding.

### **Equality & Diversity Implications**

13. Equality and diversity issues will be dealt with on a site by site basis.

### **Environmental Implications**

14. None. Any environmental issues will be dealt with on a site by site basis.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE**