

Appendix A

Office of the Thames Valley Police and Crime
Commissioner
The Farmhouse
Thames Valley Police Headquarters
Oxford Road
Kidlington
Oxon OX5 2NX

Our ref: JTAM 0123.17
Enquiries to: Anneli McCallum
Ext no: 134
Direct line: 01296 744434
Date: 12 June 2017

Dear Sirs

Letter dated 30 May 2017 from the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

I am writing in response to the above letter (the letter) addressed to me to give an update on the current governance position of Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority (the Authority).

I can confirm that Cllr Roger Reed was voted in as the new Chairman and this was decided by the Authority at its AGM on the 7 June 2017. I can also confirm that the Authority has 6 new Members out of a membership of 17.

At the meeting, as the letter requested a response by 9 June 2017, I am pleased to report that the Chairman agreed to my request that the proposals in the letter should be received as a late urgent item for consideration by the Authority. (A copy of the paper is enclosed).

There was a lot of debate on the matter and the Authority, as you are probably aware, welcomes collaboration with its blue light partners. The Authority has signed up to an MOU which encourages collaboration and no decision can be made by the Authority, or one of its committees, without the principles of collaboration having first been taken into account.

The Authority and Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service have a proud record of working together with numerous examples of sharing properties with the police. We currently share facilities at Broughton Fire Station with the possibility of sharing at Princes Risborough, Waddesdon and Newport Pagnell also being looked into. We also share facilities with SCAS at Newport Pagnell, Buckingham and Marlow Fire Stations. We are also building a blue light hub in Milton Keynes which includes all 3 blue light services.

We provide emergency medical response with SCAS and have recently taken on the forced entry aspects in the event of a medical emergency for the ambulance service, releasing the police of this additional burden.

The Authority has invested in a drone which it shares with TVP and, under its MOU, collaborates with the police on a number of services within this area. Examples of which include using fire and rescue service resources to search for missing persons and continued commitment to the emergency and investigation phase which is co-ordinated through TVP following the tragic events at the Didcot Power Station collapse on 23 February 2016.

These are a few examples of how collaboration is progressing and the Authority is committed to further collaboration which benefits our communities.

During the meeting on the 7 June, the Authority undertook to receive a report about the aspects of collaboration and this report is to be considered by the Authority at its very next meeting on 18 October 2017.

I have been asked to invite the Police and Crime Commissioner to this meeting and as I discussed with him in our meeting the facility is always available for a representative from the PCC and indeed the PCC himself to attend any Authority meeting.

When considering the contents of your letter, the Authority asked a number of questions that I was unable to answer and your help with these would be appreciated:

1. How much would the Authority be required to contribute to any business case?
2. How was the methodology of cost apportionment arrived at?
3. How would the consultancy services be procured and how, and by whom, will tenders be evaluated?

As a general comment –

4. The costs arising from this commissioning have not been factored into the Authority's MTFP and there may have to be a diversion of budget from the front line to pay for this work. This would be challenging in the current financial climate.

The Authority wishes to give full and proper consideration to these proposals. However, because of these queries, I am unable to respond to your letter with any commitments on its behalf by the 9 June.

I will stress that this is due to the unfortunate timing of the letter clashing with the outcomes and re-constitution of the Authority. It is not that the Authority does not want to collaborate, as you can see there are plenty of examples where communities are benefitting from increased collaboration across the blue light services.

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JTAM0123
12 June 2017

I enclose the contact details of the new Chairman, Cllr Roger Reed: 07818 007270, roreed@buckscc.gov.uk.

If you need any further assistance, then please do not hesitate to contact Cllr Reed, and for completeness I would welcome being copied into any correspondence.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Thelwell', written in a cursive style.

Jason Thelwell QFSM
Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive
Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service