

NEW FRONTIERS

# BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION



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## Context

Cornwall Council through Resilient Cornwall incorporating Cornwall Fire, Rescue and Community Safety Service (CFRCSS), already share excellent working relationships with Devon and Cornwall Police (DCP) and South West Ambulance Services Foundation Trust (SWASFT) and have an impressive track record of collaborative working.

Joint community prevention activities, effective and efficient response to and recovery from large scale operational incidents, flexible roles and shared property occupancy all provide tangible evidence of our success in this area. Our excellent relationship and shared community safety priorities with the

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has delivered CCTV projects in nine towns and ten joint funded Safer Towns initiatives. We have developed our innovative Tri- Service Safety Officer (TSSO) combining duties from across all three emergency services and have a shared commitment to further expand this valuable flexible role across rural communities in Cornwall.

Cornwall's One Public Estate (OPE) programme has enabled us to develop a purpose built Emergency Services Community Station in Hayle, where Police, Fire and Ambulance Services successfully co-locate. First phase concept design tri and bi service property projects are being considered in Wadebridge, Liskeard, Looe, Bodmin and Newquay with a genuine understanding of the cultural change and financial benefits these projects deliver.

The Police and Crime Act 2017 and the English Fire and Rescue Services National Framework Document provide the legislative freedom and flexibilities for innovative local collaborative solutions for the provision of emergency services. Cornwall Council, DCP, SWASFT would like to maximise this opportunity for innovation with an ambitious and accelerated programme of blue light transformation.

The Police have an ambitious programme of £14.7 million capital investment in Cornwall, through the One Public Estate programme and the development of a new Police custody at Bodmin to create a Headquarters for Cornwall, with aspirations for further colocation with partners.

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## Unlocking Barriers

### The Rationale for Change

The rural nature of Cornwall and our peninsular geography creates challenges for the successful delivery of emergency services. In order to overcome these challenges, CFRCSS, DCP and SWASFT need support to strengthen their current innovative and constructive working relationships even further.

There are ongoing challenges to provide sufficient resource to manage the increasing demand for emergency services in Cornwall. For example, the Fire & Rescue Service workforce is made up of approximately 66% on-call staff, and the recruitment and retention of this significant tranche of the workforce is becoming increasingly difficult with employers showing greater reluctance to release staff to undertake these duties. To ensure effective collaboration can continue to progress there would need to be investment to support the development of innovative collaborative pilot projects.

**Road safety** – levels of death and serious injury on our roads is not acceptable. South West Region saw a 6% drop in fatalities in 2016 (compared to 2015) but rising in Devon and Cornwall.

- 2017<sup>49</sup> - 8 fatalities and 822 serious (total KSI 890)
- 2016 - 2 fatalities and 772 serious (total KSI 824)
- 2015 - 44 fatalities and 652 serious (total KSI 696)

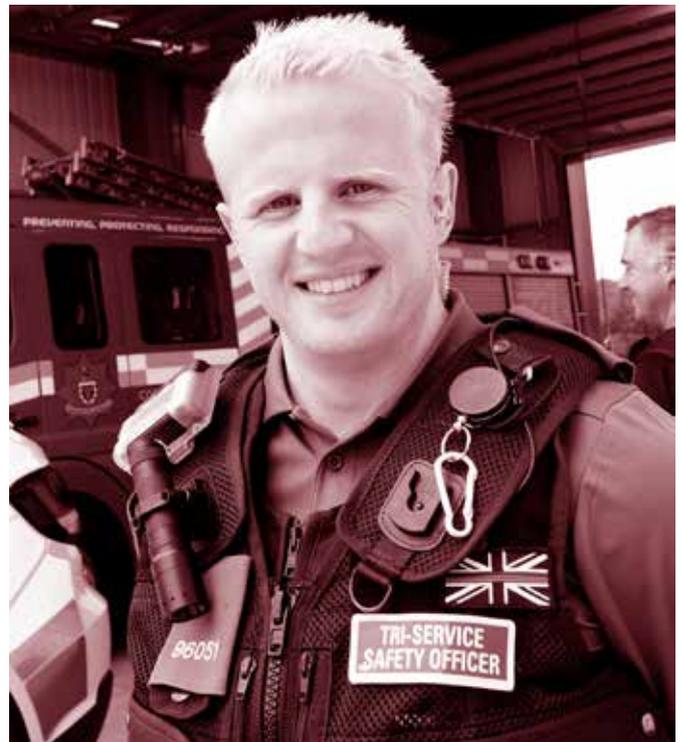
There may be further opportunities to increase road safety assessments in collaboration with Highways England and Police colleagues by encouraging community SpeedWatch campaigns. This would need to be supported by capital funding to mitigate the problems and respond to community need.

### Our ask

We want central government to support these ambitions with a one-off capital transformation grant, ring-fenced for emergency services innovative collaborative projects. This would be accessed through invest to save business cases developed jointly, which enable Cornwall to become a test bed of innovation for emergency services.

### Our offer

Through a ring-fenced capital pot we would develop business cases for innovative collaborative projects that are challenged and approved through the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Leadership Board, our rural mayoral model for governance. This enables Cornwall to be a test bed of innovation for emergency service provision.



<sup>49</sup> 2017 data not fully verified

## Benefits

Accelerating our shared property projects would provide revenue efficiencies that can be reinvested in new and flexible ways of working. Emergency Medical Response, TSSO's, CCTV schemes, Safer Towns, joint tasking could all be expanded and funded from savings delivered through an ambitious shared property portfolio.

In the 12 months from January 2017 to December 2017 CFRS responded to over 800 emergency medical calls on behalf of SWASFT. Integration could be greater enhanced by further development and roll-out of the Tri-Service Safety Officer role. The role, based in Hayle in the South West of Cornwall was developed as a pilot in 2015. In the period of May 2015 to August 2017 the officer attended 499 police logs, 181 incidents for the fire service, 226 ambulance calls, was involved in 61 anti-social behavior cases and 56 low level crime investigations. Further to this the prevention work has seen the officer undertake 322 home safety visits, make 159 safeguarding referrals and conduct 90 school / youth intervention meetings.

The success of this pilot role has led to expansion of the project with two additional TSSO officers now supporting communities in Bude and Liskeard in the East of the county. The aspiration would be to further increase the number of TSSOs to cover key geographical locations across Cornwall.

Our Critical Control Centre has already expanded its role to include CCTV, monitoring 93 cameras across nine towns. This provides a multi-faceted approach to community safety, mobilising of resources and information gathering, sharing and coordinating activities across the wider service. Around 80% of the incidents that we monitor are related to the prevention or detection of crime and around 20% are concerned with vulnerable

people (those in need of medical assistance, lost persons, etc). This could be further remodelled to create a joint emergency services control centre, managed locally, using local resources and shared intelligence.

Collaborative arrangements between CFRS and the Isles of Scilly Fire and Rescue Service already exist with operational and tactical support and advice being provided. The rural and isolated nature of the IoSFRS, may present opportunities to develop the TSSOs on the Islands. There are also opportunities for CFRS to support IOSFRS in developing community risk profiles and risk-focused Integrated Risk management Plans (IRMP).

Exploration of joint ways of working could be extended into the voluntary sector by considering how groups, such as The Red Cross, RNLI and Search and Rescue organisations could support a community-based emergency response.

Capital transformation funding with a commitment to share our learning and experiences across the UK through the National Fire Chiefs Council and Home Office would support and demonstrate central government's commitment to blue light transformation. Cornwall Council have invested £10m in emergency services property projects and agreed a £27m 15 year Capital replacement programme for CFRS. Financial pressures for all Cornwall emergency services and withdrawal of central capital grants and transformation funding has seen our ambitious plans slow down and in some cases stall.

Government investment in Cornwall's emergency services will support our devolution ambitions, help our health and social care integration devolution goals as well as deliver more effective and efficient emergency services that are "Working Together to make Cornwall Safer".

**Integration could be greater enhanced by further development and roll-out of the Tri-Service Safety Officer role**