

Notable Practice Case Study

Title of Project: Wyre Forest Blue Light Hub

Service / Organisation: Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service

Project timeline: October 2014 – March 2017

What does the project entail?

The project creates a new Wyre Forest blue light hub, which involves relocating the existing three fire stations in the Wyre Forest area into a new purpose-built, centrally-located station. This new facility will have space for the co-location of local Police and Ambulance services as well as providing a new location for the Severn Area Rescue Association and the local British Red Cross. The initiative will provide custom-built facilities for all partners to better coordinate and deliver essential safety services as well as changing the way in which fire cover is provided in the area.

What are the costs and what are the likely savings (if any)?

The Transformation Fund provides £2.38m towards an overall project cost of £5.85m and will be used towards land purchase, building works and associated fees. Savings are primarily in terms of reduced running costs and crewing costs, and are projected to rise to an ongoing sum of £575,000 per annum by 2021-22.

What are the wider benefits and how are they measured?

Wider benefits include the release of town centre sites for economic regeneration, and the associated reduction in rates and related costs.

Overall reduction in revenue costs of a shared single campus, including:

- reduced floor area with lower energy consumption and smaller carbon footprint,
- reduced maintenance and facilities management costs.

Greater collaboration opportunities, including:

- sharing of operational intelligence in line with the JESIP Doctrine as well as shared training facility,
- more coordinated and targeted community safety, crime prevention and community wellbeing activities.
- joint prevention strategies leading to reduction in deliberate fire setting and antisocial behaviour (e.g. reduce deliberate secondary fires by up to 25% over a four year period (2016-20),
- opportunities to explore co-responding models with fire and ambulance crews and volunteers.

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