

Title:

A progress report on proposals for greater collaboration between the blue light emergency services and the involvement of Police and Crime Commissioners in the governance of Fire and Rescue Services in England.

Author:

Peter Murphy (Principal Lecturer, Nottingham Business School, Nottingham Trent University)

Abstract.

Following a manifesto commitment (Conservative Party, 2015) and a public consultation exercise (Home Office, 2015), the government has recently published its proposals for greater collaboration between the 3 blue light emergency services and the involvement of Police and Crime Commissioners in the governance of Fire and Rescue Services in England (Home Office, 2016a Murphy 2015, Gash 2016). The proposals refer to potential governance changes, to a greater or lesser extent, in all three services and to greater collaboration in back office support services and prevention and protection services rather than 'emergency response' services. The proposals relate to England only, rather than to the UK, and are intended to result in greater public accountability, as well as improvements to economy, efficiency, effectiveness and public safety (Home Office, 2015, 2016a, 2016b). The second elections for PCCs are due to be held immediately before the conference on the 5th May, making an interim or progress report very timely.

This presentation will appraise the policy development and implementation process to-date and although outcomes and impacts are unlikely to be identifiable or measurable by the time of the conference, the presentation will speculate on emerging implications from the process and the May elections.

The method and analysis adopted will focus on three coterminous areas or case studies where the author has been asked to advise and facilitate the process. Any proposed changes to governance arrangements involving the Police and Crime Commissioners will need to be articulated in a local Business Case and it is anticipated that the form and content of these proposed business cases will be starting to emerge around the time of the conference.

Key Words: Governance, Collaboration, Coordination, Emergency Services, England.

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Corresponding Author: Pete Murphy, Nottingham Business School Nottingham Trent University. 0115 848 8092 peter.murphy@ntu.ac.uk