

Statement of Common Ground

Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service and
Havant Borough Council

October 2019 (Updated January 2021)

Introduction

1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is a jointly agreed statement between Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service (HFRS) and Havant Borough Council (HBC) in relation to the 2019 Pre-Submission Draft Havant Borough Local Plan (HBLP) and the representations submitted by HFRS in response to that consultation.
2. This statement sets out the position and understanding with key matters relating to land safeguarded at Hulbert Road for a Combined Emergency Services Hub at Hulbert Road (IN1D) under Policy IN1 in the Pre-Submission Draft HBLP. A site plan of the safeguarded land is provided at Appendix 1.

Update: Though HFRS did not submit representations in response to the 2020 Pre-Submission Plan consultation, no changes were proposed in relation to the safeguarding of this land.

Background

3. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service provides vital front-line response. The service covers the whole of Hampshire including Southampton and Portsmouth, with additional support provided to adjacent counties when required.
4. There is a total of 51 operational fire stations made up of both wholtime stations (permanently crewed) and On Call stations (crewed by on-call volunteers).
5. The Council has worked with the emergency services, including HFRS and Hampshire Constabulary on a range of planning and development issues, including input into the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The need to find a suitable site for a combined facility for HFRS and Hampshire Constabulary was identified by the Council at an early stage in the preparation of the HBLP.
6. HFRS' representations in response to the 2019 Pre-Submission Local Plan consultation supported the safeguarding of land at Hulbert Road (IN1D) for a combined emergency services hub.

Update: HFRS reaffirms its support the safeguarding of this land for a combined emergency services hub.

The need for a Combined Emergency Services Hub

7. HFRS works closely with other blue light services in Hampshire, including Hampshire Constabulary and South Central Ambulance Service. Several Fire Stations currently co-locate with partners to create blue light hubs. The ambition is to create a shared blue-light hub which can continue to support the community of Havant and the surrounding areas.
8. Fire and rescue service response and the location of resources is determined by local and national risk profiling. This profiling is based on the physical location and assessment of risk (such as less mobile communities, high risk industries, road networks and density of

urbanisation). As these factors change within a geographical area (such as Havant Borough) the location of suitable resources may also need to be adapted to ensure efficient response is maintained.

9. There is an opportunity for the combined emergency services hub is to be close to the strategic network, ideally located within borough of Havant in the A3(M) corridor to optimise response times to incidents, including road traffic accidents. A key action arising from the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan was that the HBLP should identify and allocate a site for a new fire station, including potential for combined facilities with the police and ambulance services of 2 acres (equivalent to 0.8 hectares), within the A3(M) corridor.
10. Whilst the option at Hulbert Road is subject to approval of a full business case, HFRS have commissioned more detailed risk modelling and response workshops for a blue light hub in this location.

Update: HFRS have embarked on a Station Investment Programme which will see the replacement of several fire stations in 2020-25. Following agreement of a full business case it is anticipated this programme of work could potentially be extended to include other stations, such as Havant, in 2025-30. Safeguarding the Hulbert Road site until 2037 would support this strategy.

11. Both HBC and HFRS understand the site in question is promoted by alternative uses by the landowner. As such, it is agreed that the Inspector should invite a representative from HFRS to participate in any Hearing sessions which relate to the future potential development of the site. This will enable the Inspector to expand upon the suitability of the site to meet HFRS' operational requirements, and for HFRS to provide an update on the progress on the detailed viability work.

Update: For the avoidance of doubt, HFRS would be content to participate in a relevant Hearing session to enable the Inspector to expand upon the suitability of the site to meet HFRS' operational requirements.

Signatories

This statement has been prepared and agreed by the following organisations	
Havant Borough Council	Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service
Signature	Signature
	
Simon Jenkins	Arron Hedges
Director of Regeneration and Place	Head of Property & Facilities
Date : 21 st January 2021	Date : 20 th January 2021

Appendix 1: Map of land to be safeguarded at Hulbert Road (IN1D)

