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Cheshire examines collaboration with fire and ambulance services

29 Nov 2013

Cheshire Constabulary are looking into collaborating with both Fire and Ambulance services in the county in order to save money.

The area's Police and crime commissioner (PCC) John Dwyer has met with Cheshire Fire and Rescue service and the Northwest Ambulance Service to discuss the proposed changes.

The force is already looking into the possibility of sharing several resources with Merseyside Police.

The collaboration of the three "blue light" services comes as a direct result of the £34 million pound savings that Cheshire police has to make by 2017.

Cheshire PCC John Dwyer said: "It doesn't make sense for all emergency services to have different premises, different back offices, different IT systems and different procurement policies, when their work is so closely related."

This has been a positive first meeting. We will now build on the work we are already doing together and will be making a bid to the Home Secretary to help support our work."

Cheshire will be applying to Police Innovation Fund, an initiative launched by policing minister Damian Green. The fund is available for forces to invest in modern technology and collaboration projects.

Fifty million pounds a year will be available to forces from 2014/14, with a £20 million precursor available for the current year.

Cheshire Assistant Chief Constable Janette McCormick said: "We are very open to collaborative working – we already work closely alongside local authorities across Cheshire and a number of other agencies as well as other police forces. We also have the pioneering sharing of services with Northamptonshire Constabulary and we are looking forward to exploring future options with other blue light services."

Paul Hancock, Chief Fire Officers said. "The three services already share facilities in Poynton and would be looking into other areas where they could come together. Another example of good joint working was the well-established co-responding arrangement with the Ambulance Service - so this isn't new to us in Cheshire, but there is much more we can do."

By [Chris Allen](#)