

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

14TH DECEMBER 2009

1. **COMMUNITY CYCLE SCHEME EXTERNAL FUNDING**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Executive Committee approve acceptance of external funding from the Birmingham Fire Reduction Partnership.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to seek the approval of the Executive Committee for accepting external funding to support the next phase of the community cycle scheme trial.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 Following the success of the first phase of the community cycle scheme, a further £40,000 grant has been provided by the Birmingham Fire reduction partnership.

3.2 This project will be extended to areas of Aston, Ward End, Sutton, Perry Barr and Northfield and will be piloting equipment, clothing, training, branding and evaluating the outcomes of this scheme with a view to continued expansion.

3.3 The teams will further the aims and objectives of the initial phase which include:

3.4 Aims

- Reduce impact on the community arising from Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) type fire incidents, e.g. arson grass fires, rubbish fires, void or empty properties and derelict vehicles.
- Reduce the cost burden on the Fire Authority and communities arising from ASB type fire incidents.

- Engage and educate children and young people as to the dangers and consequences of these kind of fire incidents.

3.5 Objectives

- Pro-actively engage with young people by visiting all secondary schools within the Hot Spot areas.
- Educate young people as to the dangers of ASB type fires, the consequences of these incidents and the negative impacts on the local area and community members.
- Offer the young people a range of diversionary activities, developed by WMFS youth services and local authority youth engagement officers provided through constituency community safety teams via Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP).
- Building links with key agencies and partners in order to reduce arson and ASB within known void properties identified during cycle patrols.
- Increasing the Service's approachability to all sectors of the community which helps to reinforce public confidence in the WMFS as it tackles the issues that affect the Community.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out. The scheme does not relate to a policy change but rather an innovation in the local delivery method.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer. The initiative will help West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority meet its obligations and responsibilities under the National Framework 2008/11 and also deliver on outcomes under the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The £40K grant will result in an extension to the existing work and will cover the costs for the purchase of the cycles, safety equipment, training and maintenance. Authority contributions related to the team will be met from existing resources.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Standing Order 17/21

Community Cycle Team Pilot Project Evaluation report

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER