

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

6TH JULY 2009

1. CONSULTATION ON FORMULA GRANT REVIEW

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the key issues regarding the Formula Grant Review that need to be included within the consultation response are discussed and agreed at the Committee.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted to seek views regarding the content of the response to the consultation exercise undertaken by the Communities and Local Government Department (CLG) from West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Fire and Rescue Service circular 34-2009 was issued on the 17th June 2009. The circular requests views from Fire and Rescue Authorities on what factors should be considered in the Fire and Rescue relative needs formula used in the formula grant distribution system. The Fire and Rescue Service circular is embedded in this report at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 It is likely that in addition to a specific West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority response, a Metropolitan Fire Authorities' response will also be provided given that there are a number of key themes that apply to all of the Fire Authorities in that 'Family Group'. A meeting had been arranged for 1st July 2009, attended by representatives from most Metropolitan Fire Authorities at which this issue was going to be discussed. A verbal update of those discussions will be provided at this meeting.

- 3.3 In addition, a copy of the Fire Service Circular was forwarded to all West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority Members in advance of this report so that if there are any specific issues that Members wish to be raised as part of the consultation exercise, there is an opportunity to ensure that these are fed in to the process.
- 3.4 The deadline date for the consultation responses is 20th July 2009. In order to begin formulating a framework for the responses, some of the initial key issues have been identified at Appendix II although this will need to be expanded further to take on board further Member/officer views at today's meeting.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out as the consultation exercise does not represent any change in policy.

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.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report although the outcome of the exercise will have an implication on the grant allocation within the National Fire Service.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Fire Service Circular 34-2009.

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER