

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2ND APRIL 2007

1. **EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIP FUNDING – URBAN SAFETY TOWN
AT NEW FIRE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Committee approve the acceptance of an external funding offer of £100K made by Birmingham's Safer Stronger Community Group as a donation towards the development of the Brigade's Urban Safety Town at the new Fire Service Headquarters (FSHQ) site.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to inform Members of the funding offer of £100k made to the West Midlands Fire Service by Birmingham's Safer Stronger Group as a contribution towards the scoping and development work necessary to define the activities of the Urban Safety Town at the new FSHQ.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The planning application for the new Fire Service Headquarters submitted to Birmingham City Council (BCC) Planning Committee, included the provision of a separate building, which apart from the Urban Safety Town would include Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Workshops, Stores and Equipment Maintenance Services and an interim Fire Control facility.
- 3.2 Birmingham's Safer and Stronger Group has expressed a wish to support the development of the Urban Safety Town concept that is planned for the New FSHQ and has offered £100k of funding to facilitate the scoping and development work necessary to define the activities of the Urban Safety Town at the new FSHQ.

- 3.3 They have further indicated that additional funds may be available during the 2007/08 financial year to meet some of the capital elements of the fit out that will be required within the Urban Safety Town space.
- 3.4 The aims and objectives of Birmingham's Local Strategic Partnership's Safer Stronger Group to improve the well being of the citizens of Birmingham align to and are supportive of those of the West Midlands Fire Service which is 'Making West Midlands Safer'.
- 3.5 The Brigade's External Partnerships Officer, as a member of the internal Urban Safety Town Consultation Group, is exploring external funding opportunities from a range of other potential partners.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out as the matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.

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**

The external funding of £100k from Birmingham's Stronger Safer Communities Group would supplement the funding package of the new FSHQ and allow for enhancements to the Urban Safety Town facility.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Relocation Officer Project File

F. J. E. SHEEHAN
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER