

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2009**

**1. MIGRANT IMPACT FUND**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

**RECOMMENDED**

THAT the Executive Committee approve acceptance of external funding from Government Office West Midlands (GOWM) Migrant Impact Fund as lead partner for the Be Birmingham Local Strategic Partnership, £192.05k in 2009/10 and, subject to Government financial review, a further £192.05k in 2010/11.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to seek the approval of the Executive Committee for accepting external funding to support the development and delivery of a specialist package to engage with and improve safety and citizenship in migrant communities.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The key objective of the Migrant Impacts fund is to reduce the existing pressures on statutory organisations caused by the influx of migrant communities.
- 3.2 In 2008, 82,000 new National Insurance Number allocations to migrants were registered within Birmingham. Many remain within the city and the wider West Midlands area. 72% of our domestic dwelling fires and a disproportionately high number of the victims of road safety incidents in Birmingham occur within our ethnic communities. West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) has the opportunity to make a significant impact upon the wellbeing of these new citizens and their communities.
- 3.3 WMFS will provide programme support to the project on behalf of Birmingham Strategic Partnership 'Be Birmingham', as we are the largest recipient of funding.

- 3.4 The initial programme was for delivery within financial year 2009/10, however, due to delays in approvals by GOWM we have received confirmation that this year's funding is ring fenced and will not be subject to claw back. A second year's funding has been agreed in principle but is subject to a Government review.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report a full Equality Impact Assessment is required and has been carried out. The programme is meeting key equality needs around our prevention and education services to migrant communities.

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**

- 6.1 Total grant allocation £192.05k to be transferred to West Midlands Fire Service from Be Birmingham (Birmingham City).
- 6.2 £133.35k for the project meeting the full cost of volunteers, development of Safeside facilities and education information to meet all new migrant education requirements. All programme management costs and administration are to be met from the fund.
- 6.3 £58.7k of grant supporting integration of migrant families being delivered by North West Birmingham New Communities Association will be passed direct to them.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

VIJ RANDENIYA  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER