

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

23RD APRIL 2007

1. PARTNERSHIP FUNDING – COVENTRY

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Authority approves the acceptance of partnership funding of £41k to provide a youth worker based in Coventry.
- 1.2 THAT the Authority approve the acceptance of partnership funding of £25k to support the provision of an additional community advocate based in Coventry.
- 1.3 THAT the Authority notes the provision of partnership funding of £20k to undertake target hardening within the Wood End area of Coventry.
- 1.4 THAT the Authority notes the provision of partnership funding of £2k to provide officers from Coventry with 'Team Teach Training' which will enable them to deliver training to young people.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted to seek approval of the Authority to accept two offers of partnership funding, and for the Authority to note the provision of funding to support two further projects.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 To enable the delivery of corporate objectives and those shared with partners, officers work in partnership with a range of organisations. An important element of such work is the provision of funding and officers working in Coventry have been successful in securing financial support for the following projects.

Youth Worker - £41k

- 3.2 Coventry has a strong Young Firefighters' Association and has successfully developed the FIRE project, which provides direction and support for young people who have been involved in anti-social behaviour. To support the expansion of youth work, funding of £41k

has been approved by the Coventry Community Safety Partnership to second a Watch Manager A as a full time youth worker based at Coventry. This facility will enable him/her to deliver a number of programmes related to anti-social behaviour such as TWOK no Doc, 'It's Your Choice', and other youth inclusion activities.

Community Advocate – £25k

- 3.3 Community advocates enable the provision of fire and safety advice to hard to influence communities. To provide additional capacity within Coventry, £25k has been provided by the City Council as a part of its work to deliver stretch targets within the Local Public Service Agreement. This funding will be supplemented from the Fire Prevention Grant to provide an advocate for two years.

Target Hardening - £20K

- 3.4 As part of the work to reduce vehicle arson and the number of abandoned vehicles in the Wood End area of Coventry, £20k has been provided from New Deal for Communities funding that will restrict vehicle access to vulnerable open areas. Successful use of this funding will enable the community to enjoy the use of public open spaces that have been blighted by vehicle crime.

Team Teach Training - £2k

- 3.5 Successful delivery of work with young people requires officers to have the necessary skills. Coventry's Youth Offending Team has provided £2k that will be used to provide a small number of officers with 'Team Teach' training.

4. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is required and has been carried out. The initial Equality Impact Assessment did not raise issues which required a full Equality Impact Assessment to be completed.

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.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The External Partnership arrangements identified in this report would support the Authority to deliver its corporate objectives. The external funding would supplement existing resources.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Partnership Documents.

F. J. E. SHEEHAN
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER