

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

25TH JUNE 2012

1. **FIRE CAPITAL GRANT FUNDING BIDS**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Authority approves the bids to Communities and Local Government (CLG) for capital funding in years 2013/14 and 2014/15 for those proposals attached to this report.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The report is submitted to advise the Authority that part of the National Fire Service Capital Funding will be allocated based on bids for 2013/14 and 2014/15 and to seek approval to submit the bids attached to this report as part of that process.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 On the 21 March 2012 CLG announced there would be a bidding process for Fire Capital Funding for all fire and rescue authorities designed to incentivise and reward efficiencies for 2013 – 2015.

3.2 Capital grant is currently distributed by way of an allocation of a fixed sum to every authority, with the balance distributed pro rata according to population. Following a consultation last year, CLG decided to maintain the current allocation process for the financial year 2012/13, but for 2013/14 and 2014/15, move towards a combination of:

- an efficiency fund, administered as a capital grant via a bidding process;
and
- a pro rata distribution

3.3 The bidding process deadline is 2 July 2012.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

These are contained on the attached appendices

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letter from Fire and Rescue Minister Bob Neill, MP, 21 March 2012

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Appendix 1

Project Title: WMFS Fire Station Merger

Brief Project Summary:

West Midlands Fire Service plans to merge the 2 fire stations currently located in Cradley Heath and Halesowen into a new single site in order to optimise fire cover in the South West of the Brigade area.

Detailed risk analysis has been undertaken to ensure the Authority is able to maintain it's response standards. By operating from a single site there will be salary savings as well as reductions in building related expenditure.

Total cost of the project: £4m

Total amount bid for: £4m

Annual Revenue Savings: £1.2m

Appendix 2

Project Title: WMFS Brigade Response Vehicles

Brief Project Summary:

The aim of the project is to align the response WMFS send to incidents to the risk posed, by sending a rapid intervention vehicle (as opposed to a 'traditional' pump rescue ladder) to a wide range of incident types.

The proposal would ensure the Authority is able to maintain it's response standards. The staffing levels required for the vehicles would be lower than required on the existing pump rescue ladders, thereby generating staff related savings (in addition to lower vehicle purchase and maintenance costs) whilst still maintaining safe systems of work.

Total cost of the project: £1.4m

Total amount bid for: £1.4m

Annual Revenue Savings: £4m

Appendix 3

Project Title: Low Risk Flexible Crewing

Brief Project Summary:

The aim of the project would be to implement 5 Low Risk and Flexible Crewing (LRFC) Fire Stations based on the Day Crewing concept. The LRFC system will ensure the provision of high quality fire and rescue services within a framework of financial affordability and will therefore materially contribute to the vision of Making West Midlands Safer.

LRFC is a flexible approach to providing staffing through a self-rostering system at a fire station of 'low risk' that remains fully functional 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Each LRFC station reduces its establishment from 28 firefighters to 14. The 24 hour shift is split into positive hours and standby hours each of 12 hours each.

Total cost of the project: £2.5m

Total amount bid for: £2.5m

Annual Revenue Savings: £1.9m