

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**24 SEPTEMBER 2012**

1. **HALESOWEN/CRADLEY FIRE STATION BARRS ROAD  
CRADLEY HEATH**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Authority approves the design of the new fire station for Cradley Heath and Halesowen.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

Following the decision of the Authority to build a new fire station to serve the communities of Cradley Heath and Halesowen this report is submitted to give Members an opportunity to comment on and approve the design of the new fire station so that Officers can proceed with the planning application.

Members were given hard copies of the fire station plans at the Policy Planning Forum on 10 September. This report refers to those plans.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 A report was presented to the Authority on the 25 June 2012 which detailed the options for a new fire station to serve the communities of Cradley Heath and Halesowen. This new fire station would replace the two fire stations at Halesowen and Cradley Heath. Following a recommendation by officers the Authority approved that Site 3, Barrs Road Cradley Heath (Haden Hill Leisure Centre) would be the location for the new fire station.

3.2 Officers were requested to carry out further work in relation to the site and the design of the new fire station which included the tendering process for the project consultants. Following a formal selection process producing full working drawings and project

management details Savills has been appointed as the consultants. Savills are International Property Consultants who have carried out previous work for the West Midlands and other Fire Authorities.

- 3.3 Subject to approval of the fire station design by the Fire Authority approval for planning will be submitted by the end of the week commencing 24 September. Planning approval will take approximately 13 weeks providing there are no major objections. Officers have consulted with the local planning officers and no issues have been raised. When planning approval has been granted the Authority will purchase the land with building works expected to start in March 2013.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

In preparing this report Planning Permission will be obtained prior to purchase of the site to reduce the risk to the Authority

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of the Planning fees for the current design is £7,400 which will be met from within the budget for the project.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report to the Authority – 25 June 2012 – Agenda Item No 25  
Report to the Authority – 16 April 2012 – Agenda Item No 8 and 20  
Report to the Authority – 28 November 2011 – Agenda Item No. 5

VIJ RANDENIYA  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER