

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

**1. SERVICE PLAN PROPOSALS FOLLOWING 12 WEEKS' PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Report of the A/Chief Fire Officer.

**RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 THAT the Authority note the outcomes of the 12 weeks' public consultation period in respect of its Service Plan proposals set out in Appendix 1 attached and approve the Authority response.
- 1.2 THAT the Authority note the original Service Plan proposals for each station affected set out in Appendix 2 attached.
- 1.3 THAT the Authority approve the revised Service Plan proposals set out in Appendix 3 attached which replace in its entirety the proposals in Appendix 2.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to inform the Authority of the outcomes of 12 weeks' public consultation in respect of the Service Plan proposals approved by the Authority at its meeting on 13 October 2008. Also, to note and approve the revised proposals for those stations affected by the original proposals.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 There is a requirement arising from the Fire and Rescue National Framework 2008-2011 and FRS Circular 7/2003 to ensure that an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) is produced and updated and that Annual Action plans are released for public consultation.
- 3.2 A revised business planning process was approved by Corporate Board in May 2006, resulting in the production of a three-year rolling Corporate Strategy document and an Annual Service Plan. These documents continually update any actions that are required to take place in future years. Additionally, the Corporate Strategy replaces the original IRMP.

- 3.3 The Annual Service Plan serves the purpose of an IRM Action Plan and the requirement to carry out public consultation will be addressed by the Service Plan consultation document. The consultation period runs for 12 weeks.
- 3.4 At its meeting on 13 October 2008 the Executive Committee approved proposals in a Service Plan to be subject to 12 weeks' public consultation. The outcomes of the public consultation process were reported to the Policy Planning Forum held on 19 January 2009. A summary of the consultation responses is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.5 Also attached to the report as Appendix 2 are the original proposals and the revised proposals following public consultation are set out in Appendix 3. Appendix 3 replaces Appendix 2 in its entirety and if approved by the Authority will form part of the Annual Service Plan for 2009-2010.

#### 4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out as individual Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken in respect of each of the Service Plan proposals approved by the Authority.

#### 5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The National Framework document for 2008-11 is given statutory power by the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. The Framework requires Fire and Rescue Authorities to "produce Annual Action Plans in which they have fully consulted their local communities, as part of a consultation process".

#### 6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

If the revised proposals are approved, there would need to be some minor building modifications at Tipton Fire Station which would be met from existing revenue funding. The other building related proposals would need to be considered as part of the Property Asset Management Plan and subsequently be reflected within the Authority's Capital Programme.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report to Executive Committee dated 13 October 2008  
Fire and Rescue Circular 7/2003 – Fire Authority Integrated Risk  
Management Planning  
Cabinet Office guidelines on public consultation  
The Fire and Rescue National Framework 2008-2011  
The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004

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