

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2009**

1. **SEDGLEY FIRE STATION SITE OPTIONS**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Authority agree to the disposal of the Sedgley Fire Station site to enable funding to be reinvested in other capital stock.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to the Authority to obtain direction as to the disposal of the Sedgley Fire Station site.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 A report was presented to Executive Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 to consider the removal of a fire engine based at Sedgley Fire Station. The proposal had been subject to a 12 week public consultation exercise. The Committee approved the removal of the fire engine and requested a further report be submitted considering options for the site.
- 3.2 A subsequent report was presented to Authority on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009 recommending the disposal of the site. It was resolved at the meeting that the Chief Fire Officer would undertake further investigations into the future use of the site at Sedgley Fire Station and submit a further report in due course.
- 3.3 As part of this investigation, a proposal for the future use of the former Sedgley Fire Station, by the West Midlands Road Safety Partnership, to deliver prevention based activities for the Black Country Area with regard to road safety was examined. Delivery of this project could equally be delivered through other fire stations across the Authority on a sustainable basis while using Sedgley would inhibit freedom of the Authority to make timely decisions regarding future disposal of the site. There have been no new reported expressions in interest of partners using the site. Costs associated with other options for use were reported on previously.

3.4 Since 20<sup>th</sup> April, there have been a number of developments with regard to the Service's asset base. In particular, the development of new fire stations at Chelmsley Wood and Halesowen/Cradley will create additional demands upon resources and the sale of the site at Sedgley would provide additional resources to fund the new developments.

3.5 Land values remain depressed and the medium-term outlook indicates that this state will continue for some time. Therefore there is unlikely to be any significant upward movement in realisable income that the Service will generate through retaining the site in the medium term. While the site remains in the ownership of the Authority annual costs are being incurred to maintain it in its current condition.

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

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out.

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

Chapter 4 of the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008/11 has a section on efficiency. In this section reference is made to the fact that "there is still considerable scope for authorities to look closely at the way in which they deliver services and use resources and how they could do things better and more efficiently" (paragraph 4.42). There is also a requirement for authorities to ensure efficient use of resources and to effectively manage their estates (paragraph 4.48).

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

6.1 The ongoing revenue expenditure on the Sedgley Fire Station site is approximately £15K per annum, predominantly for rates and utility costs. Any reduction in these costs would represent an efficiency saving for the Authority. In addition, any planned or responsive maintenance costs would be avoided.

6.2 The estimated disposal value for Sedgley Fire Station is £200K. This would represent capital funding which could be used in support of the investment in new fire stations approved as part of the Annual Service Plan reported to the Authority on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Executive Committee – Sedgley Fire Station - 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Executive Committee – Sedgley Fire Station - 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Executive Committee – Sedgley Fire Station – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009

Authority – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009

VIJ RANDENIYA  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER