

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

27 JUNE 2011

1. **PROVISION OF A PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR GENERATION SYSTEM AT HANDSWORTH COMMUNITY FIRE STATION**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Authority approve the acceptance of £26,250 funding for the supply and installation of a PV Solar system at Handsworth Community Fire Station from Marks and Spencer.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to obtain the Authority's approval to accept £26,250 from Marks and Spencer for the benefit of local community engagement activities in the Handsworth community.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 As a proposed Community Partner, Marks and Spencer have offered an opportunity to West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) to take part in a pilot scheme which would provide a PV Solar electricity generation system as one of three proposed schemes within the UK. These three projects will help determine the technical and financial viability of solar power on community buildings for Marks and Spencer.
- 3.2 The essence of the proposed contract and Community Partnership is that all revenue savings and Feed in Tariffs generated by the PV system would be retained by the Community Partnership, less an allowance for the operational and maintenance costs. The remaining funds would support community based projects for the benefit of the local communities. The equipment would, when installed, become the property of WMFS free of charge under the conditions of the contract.

- 3.3 The activities that would be supported by this Community Partnership would include literacy/numeracy/IT classes, exercise classes for the over 50s, safety education and supporting Afro Caribbean Elders' Group activities.
- 3.4 The Community Partnership would help make changes for communities, through the fair and open funding for people, projects and programmes, with a particular emphasis on tackling need.
- 3.5 This project would also support the environmental strategy of WMFS and specifically the carbon reduction target to reduce carbon emissions by 25% by 2015.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report a full Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out. However, the programme would support meeting key equality needs around prevention and education services for diverse communities within Birmingham.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

This project supports the Climate Change Act 2008 which places a legal duty on organisations to reduce their carbon emissions.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Funding of £26,250 from Marks and Spencer has been granted in principle for the installation of the PV Solar system. The revenue savings and income from feed in tariffs arising from the installation of the system is estimated at £3,500 per annum and would meet all anticipated maintenance and repair costs and help support community projects, such as those listed above.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Partnership Files

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER