

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

30TH MARCH 2009

1. **ROAD CASUALTY REDUCTION TEAM EXTERNAL FUNDING**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Authority approve acceptance of external funding from the West Midlands Road Safety Group.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to seek the approval of the Authority for accepting external funding totalling £382,000 from the West Midlands Road Safety Group to support the creation of a Road Casualty Reduction Team (RCRT). The funding will enable the creation of the RCRT for a two year period within the West Midlands Fire Service.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 A report went to the Executive Committee on 12th November 2007, Minute 65/07 refers, which gives details of funding to support the development of a Road Casualty Reduction Roadshow. Since that time, the Roadshow has been used by schools across all City and Metropolitan Districts to enhance their Road Safety Teams' casualty reduction plans.
- 3.2 The proposal to develop a RCRT follows the successful delivery of a Road Casualty Reduction Roadshow in schools across all seven metropolitan districts and the delivery in 2008 of a number of road casualty reduction pilot programmes in Birmingham schools.
- 3.3 The pilot programmes were delivered by a team of three officers and were deemed to be a success by staff of both WMFS and the schools. The programmes contributed to the achievement of Birmingham's KSI (killed or seriously injured) target for 2008. The KSI target was for no more than 465 people to be killed or seriously injured. The actual number was 410.

3.4 The funding bid submitted to the West Midlands Road Safety Group proposed to create a dedicated Road Casualty Reduction Team to deliver services in partnership with other road safety specialist in the metropolitan districts. Total funding of £382,000 is available and this will enable a four person team to be established.

3.5 The work of the team will include the:

- delivery of the award winning Your Choice on the Road education programme
- development of new programmes to deliver road casualty reduction education to new targeted audiences, including motorcyclists, nursery age children, and young people close to driving age.
- use of contacts and networks that have been developed through the Home Fire Safety Check work to create road casualty reduction projects that target hard to influence people.
- development of WMFS staff to enable road casualty reduction programmes to become embedded within the service.
- development of work with partners to create new and innovative programmes that improve road safety across the West Midlands.

3.6 The RCRT work would enable WMFS to support partners in meeting targets set against National Indicators (NI) 47 (People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents) and NI 48 (Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents). These targets are included within some of the seven Local Area Agreements.

3.7 Subject to Authority approval, the team would be established as soon as practicable after 1st April 2009.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is required and has been carried out. The initial Equality Impact Assessment did raise issues which required a full Equality Impact Assessment to be completed. The impact upon the community is positive and is focussed upon those communities in greatest need of intervention.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Fire and Rescue Authorities have a statutory duty to reduce the risk of Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) and to respond to such incidents. Section 8 of the 2004 Fire and Rescue Services Act sets out the details of the statutory duty. The initiative will help WMFRA meet its obligations and responsibilities under the National Framework 2008/11 and also deliver on outcomes under the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The external funding would be £192,535 in 2009/2010 and £189,530 in 2010/2011. These funding levels would be sufficient to cover all of the salary, transport and the supplies and services costs incurred by the proposed Road Casualty Reduction Team.
- 6.2 The Authority's contribution would consist of the provision of premises for the staff and use of Brigade vehicles in support of specific events. This would be met from existing resources.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Draft Standing Order 17/18 Road Casualty Reduction Strategy
Community Safety Department Level 3 Action Plan – Road Casualty
Reduction Team
Standing Order 22/2 Partnership Working

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CHIEF FIRE OFFICER