

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

30 APRIL 2013

1. **ASSET STRATEGY (ACADEMY)**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Executive Committee note the process being used to develop an Asset Strategy as a Supporting Strategy aligned to 'The Plan 2013-16'.
- 1.2 THAT the Executive Committee approves the proposal to move to a multi centre distribution of key training facilities to support Operational training delivery.
- 1.3 THAT the Executive Committee note the proposal to engage with other agencies to consider a collaborative/partnership approach as part of considerations for the Academy.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to seek approval from the Executive Committee to proceed with the development of an Asset Strategy that reflects the direction outlined with 'The Plan 2013-16' (see page 14, bullet points 2 and 6).

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Corporate Board have committed to the development of an Asset Strategy designed to align all buildings owned or occupied by the service in line with the direction outlined in 'The Plan'.
- 3.2 A key consideration in this process is the distribution of key training facilities, needed to support our aspiration for staff 'to be the best they can be' in pursuit of excellence.
- 3.3 The term 'key training facilities' is used to describe our approach to providing specialist training facilities at a local level, maximising opportunities to undertake high quality training without the need to travel long distances whilst minimising instances of disruption to availability for emergency incidents.
- 3.4 Whilst developing the Asset Strategy, Corporate Board have agreed the following recommendation; The Academy does not form part of the internal asset strategy, it will be considered for retention as part of an asset strategy in line with the exploration of commercial partnership opportunities.
- 3.5 This will be conducted in line with the direction provided in 'The Plan' by exploring opportunities for shared services with other public sector providers.
- 3.6 Approval of the proposal will initiate a process of engagement with staff taking into consideration a number of key factors including;
 - Analysis of the most suitable centres for key training facilities and what facilities are required;
 - Evaluation of opportunities to work with partners;
 - Consideration of re-location of staff dependant on the above.
- 3.8 Approval of this report will form part of the overall Supporting Strategy for Assets due for presentation at the September Fire Authority meeting.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Will be conducted as part of the considerations outlined in 3.6.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Fire Service Act 2004 part 2 7.2(b), 8.2(b), 9.3(b) requires a Fire Authority to make provision for training of operational staff for dealing with fires, road traffic collisions and other emergencies.

WMFRA delivers this requirement through training facilities using a Competency based framework incorporating the principles of Integrated Personal Development System (IPDS).

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any partnership or collaborative arrangements with the Academy site should result in ongoing shared building related expenditure and/or increased income generation. It is anticipated that operating from a multi distribution arrangement for key training facilities would incur some level of modification costs, the scale of which would be dependant upon the specific alternative sites identified.

Details of any financials including potential savings associated with a multi centre approach to training would need to be contained in a future Committee report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Plan 2013-16
Property Asset Management Plan 2013-14
Budget and Precept 2013-14 and Budget Forecast 2013-14 to 2016/17

The contact name for this report is Phil Loach telephone number 0121 380 6909.

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER