



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Finance & Resources Committee

EASTWOOD FIRE STATION

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 11 July 2014

Purpose of Report:

To inform Members of a joint capital scheme involving Eastwood Fire Station, that may require some acceleration of the Capital Programme.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members may be aware that as part of the annual settlement the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) set aside £75m of funding for capital schemes for which Fire and Rescue Services were invited to bid. The criteria for bids were quite narrow and centred around the implementation of types of initiatives set out in the Sir Ken Knight report.
- 1.2 Bids needed to be submitted by 4 June 2014 for consideration by DCLG and Nottinghamshire have submitted two bids, one for the new Central Fire Station and one in respect of a development at Eastwood.
- 1.3 As members have already approved the Central scheme there is no requirement for further approval but the Eastwood scheme is new and therefore does require Member approval. Should Members not wish to pursue the Eastwood scheme then the bid can be withdrawn.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 One of the bidding criteria for the government's transitional funding capital grant is that schemes should seek out collaboration with other emergency services, especially but not exclusively the Police.
- 2.2 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) owns a retained fire station in Eastwood which is a shared premises with the East Midlands Ambulance Service for which they pay an annual rental. NFRS also rent a small piece of land to the NHS for use as a car park for their adjacent health centre.
- 2.3 Recently Nottinghamshire Police have acquired a piece of land in front of the health centre and adjacent to the fire station for their own use, and the NHS and the Police have approached NFRS to see if there is any possibility of a joint development of the whole site.
- 2.4 The idea is to create a single "campus" style development which includes buildings for Police, Fire, EMAS and the NHS and to share common areas such as canteen facilities, reception desk, gym etc. as well as a number of community and meeting rooms.
- 2.5 Eastwood Fire Station is not in the best state of repair however it is not envisaged that it would be scheduled for redevelopment until about 2017, however this opportunity to create a joint service hub in Eastwood seems a logical thing to do. It also fits into the criteria for attracting government grant.
- 2.6 There are very few details available at present about this development as at present there is only an agreement in principle from all four services. Nevertheless funding is to be made available from both the Police and the

NHS to finance their element of this. It is envisaged that EMAS will continue to rent their portion of the building from NFRS.

- 2.7 This project will match the bidding criteria quite closely and therefore a capital grant bid has been submitted for £1.575m for the Fire Service element of this scheme. The overall cost is just over £5m but Police and NHS have committed to fund the balance. Ordinarily a refurbishment or rebuild of Eastwood might be expected to cost approximately £1.5m so a successful bid of this nature would represent a significant saving.
- 2.8 Further reports will be brought back to Members when the bidding process is completed and there is more detail around the specifics of the scheme.
- 2.9 Members are therefore asked to approve this joint scheme and agree to this project being accelerated forward in the Capital Plan.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are set out in Paragraph 2.7 above.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no human resources implications arising directly from this report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An initial equality impact assessment has been completed and there are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There is always a risk that comes from operating with partners but these chiefly relate to governance and project management. Both of these issues will be given proper attention before the scheme goes ahead

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members approve this joint scheme and agree to this project being accelerated forward in the Capital Programme.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER