

## Decision Record – Fire and Rescue Service Transformation Funding Application Department of Communities and Local Government

<b>Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision</b>	Cllr Les Caborn Community Safety
<b>Date of Decision</b> (not before: 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2014)	02/06/2014

### Decision Taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety authorises the Chief Fire Officer to prepare and submit the following application to the Department of Communities and Local Government Fire and Rescue Transformation Fund to support the Service Transformations Plans to be implemented in 2015/16:

- a) A standalone application to the medium lot of approximately £2.1 million for the outcomes associated with the Service Transformation Plan including increasing On-call (Retained Duty System Firefighters) arrangements and local accountability.

### Reasons for Decisions

The Facing the Future report, authored by Sir Ken Knight who was the Government's Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor, identifies 5 key themes (listed below) that Fire and Rescue Services should be considering when they develop transformation plans.

- Encourage greater collaboration;
- Improve local accountability;
- Increase on-call arrangements;
- Prioritise prevention and protection; and
- Promote asset transformation/ other efficiencies.

The fund is separated into three different bands as set out in the list below:

- larger sized schemes (£5 million plus);
- medium-sized schemes (£2 million to £5 million); and
- small-scale lots schemes (up to £2 million)

Headline benefits include the following outcomes:

- Continued delivery of a safe and effective Fire & Rescue Services;
- Continued sustainable and resilient service delivery over the medium and long term;
- Greater long term financial efficiency;
- Improved response to emergencies;
- Increase frontline productivity; and
- Increase capacity to support managerial and leadership effectiveness

WFRS proposals for the medium sized scheme. We propose to apply for £2.1 million from the transformation fund. Our Service Transformation Plan includes the recruitment and training of more on-call firefighters, the replacement of traditional Fire Engines with smaller

more cost effective and faster vehicles, and the building of two new response locations.

Costs include recruiting and training on-call firefighters and providing additional support during their development and in the first two years of being operational. Further detail is provided in the list below.

- Recruitment – Process to provide more on-call firefighters.
- Supervision –to support new on-call firefighters including leadership and mentoring.
- Part-time contracts (for a period of 12 months) for new On-call Firefighters enabling training outcome to be achieved faster and for core skills to be practiced.
- Two new response locations at strategic locations in rural areas.

### Capacity and strategic fit

WFRS is one of the smallest Services in England. Our capacity to deliver complex projects is limited, but we have a good track record of delivering project on time and within budget as indicated within the Peer Review November 2013. The Service Transformation Plan will use the majority of our programme and project management capacity during the 2015/16 financial year.

Costs for project management are included in the application to make sure that the transformation plan does not compromise the ability to deliver the potential outcomes of closer working with Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service.

### Background Information

All councils must reduce their costs as part of the Government's savings plan. The grants made by the Government to fund services that are delivered locally are being reduced.

The Fire and Rescue Service must contribute to the balancing of the County Council's budget. The savings identified for Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) is £2.4 million.

Savings of this type may affect the delivery of frontline service including the response to emergency incidents and community fire safety, as set out in the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2013-17.

Central Government has recognised that Fire and Rescue Services are responding to the reductions in grant funding and have set aside a fund that includes revenue and capital funding to support service transformation.

In the recent 2013 Spending Round the Government announced **£30 million of resource funding** to be made available for return to the fire sector for 2015-16 to support transformational change and deliver sensible savings, and: *'opportunities identified by the Knight Review, such as creating more emergency centres to accommodate the three blue light services, sharing back office functions and running joint response systems...'* (p.23).

A **£45 million capital fire efficiency incentive fund** was also announced to further assist fire and rescue authorities in achieving efficient and effective service delivery. This will:

*“encourage greater collaboration between the Fire Service and other emergency services”*  
(p.36)

And encourage fire services to:

*“invest capital in ensuring that fire service assets such as fire stations are appropriately located to ensure efficient and effective service delivery”* (p.37)

**Financial Implications**

As outlined in the report.

<b>Report Author</b>	David Vazquez
<b>Head of Service</b>	Gary Phillips
<b>Strategic Director</b>	Andy Hickmott
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Les Caborn

**Checklist**

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	No
<b>Confidential or Exempt?</b> (State the category of exempt information)	No
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	No

**List of Reports considered** - please include link to report

Link to published proposed decision report:  
<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/3179/Committee/549/Default.aspx>

**List of Background Papers** - please include a contact for access to background papers

None.

**Members and officers consulted or informed** – please include any comments

Portfolio Holders – Councillor Les Caborn  
All Strategic Directors  
Legal – Ian Marriott, Peter Oliver, John Gregory, Ann Belcher  
Finance – Liz Firmstone  
Equality – Minakshee Patel  
Democratic Services – Georgina Atkinson

Communities OSC – party spokes:

Councillors Richard Chattaway, Jenny Fradgley, John Holland and Chris Williams