

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Urgent Decision Taken

Purpose of report

1. To advise Members of an urgent decision that has been taken since the last meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee in relation to the redevelopment of Broadway Fire Station.

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the decision taken under the Urgent Decisions Procedure to further increase the budget allocation for the redevelopment of Broadway Fire Station, be noted.

Introduction and Background

2. The Urgent Decisions Procedure has been adopted for occasions when it would be impractical to call a meeting of the Authority. The procedure is set out under Article 9.6 of the Authority's Constitution. Where the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, agrees the matter is urgent, the Chief Fire Officer will consult on the matter with Group Leaders and is then authorised to make a decision having regard to the outcome of the consultation. Finally, the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is then reported back to the next meeting of the actual decision-making committee or to the Authority.

Urgent Decision

3. Members will be aware that recent Property Update reports have referenced the UK construction tender price index, and the associated inflationary pressures being seen across the building sector. This has had an impact on the projected costs for the redevelopment of Broadway Fire Station.
4. Due to tender cost variations and fixed tendering timescales for the project, and in accordance with the Urgent Decisions Procedure the Chief Fire Officer consulted the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority, together with Group Leaders to agree the revised project costs.
5. The original budget allocation for the redevelopment of Broadway Fire Station was made in 2018, and increased by the Policy and Resources Committee in May 2022. However, we now have a revised tender sum for the works and the costs have

increased again, reflecting the state of the construction industry and current material costs at this time.

6. Ordinarily, we would report this further increase in cost to the P&R Committee, and seek additional budget approval. However, the acceptance period for the tender would have expired, and Officers were concerned that costs would have increased even further if a decision was delayed. It was therefore felt appropriate to deal with the matter under the Authority's urgent decision procedure. Details of the revised costs are included in a separate report on this agenda.

Conclusion/Summary

7. Following consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Group Leaders, a decision has been taken in accordance with the urgent business procedure to further increase the budget allocation for the redevelopment of Broadway Fire Station in order that the scheme can proceed as quickly as possible.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues).	Note reference to the UK construction tender price index, and the associated inflationary pressures being seen across the building sector.
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	Details underpin a number of key property priorities for the Authority.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	None.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter).	None.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?).	None.