

6. Development at Evesham

Purpose of report

1. To highlight a proposal from Wychavon District Council to purchase the current Evesham fire station site and re-provide a new fire station and training facility as part of a greater development plan for Evesham.
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Recommendations

The Chief Fire Officer recommends that:

- i) The Policy and Resources Committee agrees in principle to the proposed sale of the existing Evesham Fire Station site to Wychavon District Council on terms that allow for the provision of a new Fire Station and training facility.***
- ii) Details of the proposed terms be reported back to this Committee for approval following negotiation.***

Introduction and Background

2. Wychavon District Council has approached the Service with an interest in purchasing Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service's (HWFRS) Evesham Fire Station site as part of an initial proposal to redevelop Evesham. This proposal is hoped to bring increased prosperity to the area and thus encourage sustainable growth in the area.
3. The Authority has recently invested £562,000 in the construction of a new training facility at Evesham Fire Station. However, the current fire station will require further investment in the near future to address maintenance and repair issues and to overcome the current inappropriate layout and lack of modern facilities.

Outline Proposal

4. Wychavon District Council has outlined a proposal which will provide a new fire station and training facility at a location relatively near to the existing fire station. The proposed location is within an appropriate area to provide effective fire cover.

5. The proposal indicates little or no cost to the Authority for the provision as it is hoped that all costs would be generated as part of the development. In essence, the proposal is the purchase of the existing site by Wychavon District Council for a sum which will cover all costs to provide a new fire station and training facility at (and including the cost of) a new site. However, to proceed with this development, Wychavon require an in principle commitment from HWFRS that the project can proceed through to conclusion and so approval from the Policy and Resources Committee on this basis is now requested. The project will require additional resources to manage any construction works in addition to the existing capital fire station replacement programme, but it is envisaged that these costs will be included as part of the overall agreement. Any costs incurred as part of the development stage will be drawn from existing minor capital budgets and recovered at the appropriate time.
6. Should this proposal come to fruition it will benefit the Authority through the provision of a new station in Evesham which will reduce on-going maintenance in comparison to the existing station and provide up-to-date facilities which are more in keeping with the current requirements of a modern Fire and Rescue Service.

Conclusion/Summary

7. It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee approve the proposal in principle to sell the existing Evesham Fire Station site to Wychavon District Council as part of a development proposal which will include the provision of a new fire station including training facility at an appropriate location.

Financial Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are financial issues that require consideration	Yes	Paragraph 5

Legal Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are legal issues e.g. contractual and procurement, reputational issues that require consideration	Yes	Whole document.

Additional Considerations

8. The table below sets out any additional issues arising from the proposals contained in this report and identifies the relevant paragraphs in the report where such issues are addressed.

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
Resources (e.g. Assets, ICT, Human Resources, Training & Development, Sustainability).	Yes	Whole document
Strategic Policy Links (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	Yes	Asset Management Strategy
Risk Management / Health & Safety (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	No	
Consultation with Representative Bodies	No	

Supporting Information

None

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