

Report of Head of Asset Management

10. Asset Management Strategy: Hereford Fire Station Update

Purpose of report

1. To report progress to the Committee regarding the provision of a new fire station in Hereford.
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Recommendation

It is recommended that progress to explore the potential of a preferred option to replace Hereford fire station, be noted.

Introduction and Background

2. The Policy and Resources Committee previously requested regular updates on activity being undertaken by Officers of the Service to provide a replacement fire station in Hereford. At the last Policy and Resources Committee on 27th January 2015, Members were given a summary of the search criteria used to determine the location of a new fire station to ensure it would be fit for purpose, that the fire engines can be crewed properly and respond in an effective manner. Members were also informed that although a previously preferred option in Bath Street, Hereford was no longer viable, other locations had been identified and were being explored through close liaison with Officers of Herefordshire Council.
3. In line with this work, a preferred option has been identified and this paper gives a brief update on how this option will now be considered.

Current Position

4. The new preferred location offers the potential space required to accommodate a new fire station and training facility. Officers of the Service are now investigating this site in terms of the historical incident risk profile of the area and the ability for retained duty fire fighters to turn in to the new location in an appropriate time so that attendance standards can be maintained. These criteria were highlighted as part of the update at the last Policy and Resources Committee.
5. In addition to these investigations, Officers of the Service have opened up discussions with West Mercia and Warwickshire Police to explore any potential of a shared location in Hereford: a number of meetings have been scheduled to examine any potential efficiencies and benefits which may accrue from a shared location.

Conclusion/Summary

6. At the last Policy and Resources Committee meeting, members were made aware of the extensive work being undertaken to provide a new fire station in Hereford. This paper further illustrates this activity by highlighting that a preferred option has been identified and that the potential of this option is now being explored in full.
7. It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee note the content of this paper.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	Whole document relates to property. Proposals will require legal and financial input at the appropriate time.
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	The Asset Management Strategy supports 'Our Strategy' on the foundations of 'Buildings and Infrastructure'.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	All capital projects are managed within the appropriate Health and Safety legislation and best practice.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	Consultation is undertaken as part of the planning approval process.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	No – this will be considered at the appropriate time.

Supporting Information

Background papers – Policy and Resources Committee 26 March 2014, Policy and Resources Committee 19 November 2014 and Policy and Resources Committee 27 January 2015.

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