

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 ONWARDS
- VEHICLES, ESTATES AND ICT**

SUMMARY

1. This report sets out for approval the proposed capital programme for vehicles, estates and ICT for 2016/17 onwards.
2. The programme has been approved by CMT at their meeting on 16 November 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That Members approve the capital programme for vehicles, estates and ICT for 2016/17 onwards and that it is incorporated into the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20 to be considered at the 15 February 2016 Fire Authority meeting.

VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME 2016/17 ONWARDS

4. In the last 12 months the Service has taken delivery of one Aerial Ladder Platform, one Incident Command Unit and Three Tactical Response Vehicles which represented £1.3m of investment. The new specialist vehicle that assists with the support of victims of fire and flooding is now operating in partnership with the Red Cross.
5. A review has been carried out of the vehicle replacement programme for 2016/17 – 2020/21 and is set out in Appendix 1.
6. The review identified that the replacement cycle for fire appliances required updating. Therefore, the next order is scheduled for 2018/19. This amendment has identified potential capital savings of £2.8m within the next five years. Further savings could be achieved depending on the outcome of any future Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP).
7. As a result of the Incident Command review relating to both Strategic and Middle Managers, further reductions can be made in the light vehicle FDS fleet, with potential savings of £270k within the next five years due to the reduction of FDS officers.
8. Due to the establishment of the new venture with the Police regarding the vehicle workshops (ESFM) there is no longer a requirement for the Service to replace vehicles for mobile workshops. This change will achieve savings of £100k within the next five years.
9. In light of the above the predicted capital expenditure relating to vehicles is limited to £76k for 2016/17 (see Appendix 1).

ESTATES 2016/17 ONWARDS

10. The past year has seen significant estates related activity across the Service, with a number of high-profile schemes completed or plans well under way.

11. Construction work commenced in March 2015 to re-model the old stores area within the Service's Headquarters building to create a new indoor working at heights training facility, provide additional training classrooms and to refurbish the associated welfare facilities. The facility was completed in July of this year and has proved a huge success in terms of improving training provisions for both our own staff and attracting commercial interest in conjunction with HFR Solutions.
12. The new Clough Road station also opened in April of this year with demolition of the old station building now completed. Plans for a new training facility adjacent to the station dwelling have also been developed, tenders received and work is expected to commence shortly.
13. Plans for the two further new build stations at Brough and Hull Central have now been drawn up and we are currently out to tender for a main contractor. Work on both sites is scheduled to start in January 2016 with both stations planned to be fully operational by autumn 2016.
14. Work has also commenced on site on the refurbishment and extension schemes at Withernsea and Brigg stations and also on the enhanced Marine fire-fighting training facility at Immingham West. Completion of these schemes is anticipated to be spring 2016 and December 2015 respectively.
15. Feasibility work has also been undertaken in conjunction with Hull Clinical Commissioning Group to assess the potential relocation of the East Hull fire station provision into a joint facility Integrated Care Centre in East Hull. A further paper on this agenda details the options available in this regard however the proposal suggested is based on an annual lease agreement negating the need for a one off capital investment. As a result no provision has been made within the capital programme for 2016/17.
16. Other schemes currently scheduled within this financial year include refurbishment of Howden station, a programme of kitchen replacement and some additional remodelling works planned for the service headquarters building.
17. The base estates Capital Programme for 2016/17 and 2017/18 is as follows:

| 2016/17 | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Block Allocation | £500k |
| Invest to Save | £200k |
| SHQ Works | £200k |
| Total | £900k |

| 2017/18 | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Block Allocation | £500k |
| Invest to Save | £200k |
| Total | £700k |

18. As a result of the expansion of the training facilities at SHQ (ex-Stores area) and the consolidation of various functional areas (as a direct result of the Service Redesign Programme), there is a need to expand the car park provision, office accommodation and classroom/reception/canteen areas. This is reflected in the Capital Programme for 2016/17 as an additional £200k.

19. A review of existing condition survey information and operational requirements is underway, from which a prioritised list of estates refurbishment schemes will be drawn up to be funded from within the block allocation for 2016/17.
20. The Invest to save allocation will facilitate other premises schemes that will yield on-going revenue savings for the Authority, such as boiler replacements and energy saving initiatives.

ICT 2016/17 ONWARDS

21. Investment in ICT infrastructure within the Service has continued during 2015/16 with a focus on increasing resilience, supporting incident response and enabling agile/flexible working.
22. The Microsoft Enterprise Agreement, which was procured under a Government negotiated framework contract, continues to provide access to the latest versions of a wide range of enterprise products that are used on a day-to-day basis throughout the Service.
23. Routine hardware replacement has again been scaled back during 2015/16 and swapped for a focused programme to target equipment that was no longer fit for purpose. This replacement programme now incorporates the change-out of early tablet devices that are coming to the end of their useful life.
24. Upgrade of fireground radios from analogue to digital is now contained in the programme, to enhance the quality of sound communication at operations. This work is expected to cover two financial years and includes some budgetary provision for elements of the Emergency Services Network (ESN) that is not covered by transitional funding.
25. The agile/flexible working element covers areas where investment in technology will lead to longer-term efficiency savings, e.g. automating processes, more efficient data capture, etc., and the release of capacity for use elsewhere further supporting the Service Redesign Programme.
26. Provision is also made to further enhance the resilience of network connections at Fire Stations now that the Wide Area Network is used as the primary mobilising bearer. Public Announcement Systems (PA) at many wholtime Fire stations are reaching the end of their useful life and replacement systems are necessary.
27. A review of systems is currently taking place and a view to consolidation into fewer, interconnected systems. Overall this is designed to provide organisation efficiency and reduce long-term costs.
28. The ICT Capital Programme is set out as:

| 2016/17 | |
|---|--------------|
| Replacement Programme (including Microsoft Enterprise Agreement) | £200k |
| Upgrade of Fireground Radios & Emergency Services Network Devices | £200k |
| Agile/Flexible Working Services | £50k |
| Station End Equipment Resilience Upgrade and PA Systems | £55k |
| Information Systems Upgrades and Development | £70k |
| Total | £575k |

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|---|--------------|
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STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

29. The capital replacement programme meets the Service's strategic objective of making the most of the resources that it has.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

30. The financial impact of the proposals are detailed in the report. Subject to approval of the recommendations contained within the report, the financial effect of the proposals will be incorporated into the Authority's revenue and capital plans for 2016/17 onwards that will be presented for consideration and final approval at the Fire Authority in February 2016.
31. The most appropriate method of financing the assets set out in this report will be determined on the basis of value for money and risk to the Authority. This will be undertaken prior to the start of the financial year in liaison with the Authority's Treasury Management advisors.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

32. Up to date, modern and fit for purpose vehicles, premises and IT equipment are essential in order for the Authority to meet its legal responsibilities to both employees and its communities.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

33. No direct issues arising.

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

34. It is essential that an ongoing programme of replacement is in place to ensure that assets are 'fit for purpose' and to mitigate against the risks of financial resources not being synchronised with service planning.
35. In determining an appropriate programme of replacement, due consideration has been given to expected asset life, planned operational requirements and financial implications with appropriate involvement from all key internal stakeholders.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

36. Health and Safety considerations and responsibilities are paramount and to that end the Authority aims to provide suitable and sufficient equipment and vehicles to ensure effective service delivery

COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

37. No direct issues arising

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

38. This report has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders across the organisation.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

39. Annual Statement of Accounts 2014/15 and Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2016/17 to 2019/20.

RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

40. That Members approve the capital programme for vehicles, estates and ICT for 2016/17 onwards and that it is incorporated into the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20 to be considered at the 15 February 2016 Fire Authority meeting.

S TOPHAM

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