

## TRANSFORMATION FUND

### SUMMARY

1. This paper provides information regarding planned bids against the £75 million Fire and Rescue Transformation Funds for 2015/16 which the Government announced in order to support schemes that encourage greater collaboration; improve local accountability; prioritise prevention and protection; and promote asset transformation/ other efficiencies. Efficiencies should be delivered over a short to medium term, for example up to 10 years, but expenditure must be in 2015/16.
2. The deadline for bids is 4 June 2014, unless the bid involves two Fire and Rescue Services in which case it is 17 June 2014.
3. Officers are currently working up two bids, one for costs associated with the Service Wide Efficiency Review and one related to a potential expansion of the planned Water Response facility to allow for greater use by partners and the community, particularly around flood preparedness.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

4. That Members endorse the steps being taken to develop the bids and approve the submission of those bids prior to the deadline of 4 June 2014.

### REPORT DETAIL

5. The Government have published a bid prospectus for Transformation Funds for 2015/16 in order to support schemes that encourage greater collaboration; improve local accountability; prioritise prevention and protection; and promote asset transformation/ other efficiencies.
6. The funds are split into £30m of resource funding and £45m of capital funding; however there is one single competitive bidding process for the two funds, which is split into three lots:
  - larger sized schemes (£5 million plus)
  - medium-sized schemes (£2 million to £5 million)
  - small-scale lots schemes (up to £2 million)
7. FRS can put up to one bid in for each scheme size, so could put up to three bids overall, the expectation is that bids for large schemes will be multi agency or multi FRS bids.
8. Officers are currently working up details of two bids. Firstly a bid to cover costs associated with the Service Wide Efficiency Review, which is part of the Strategic Plan 2014/17 recently approved by the Authority. It is expected that the bid for that element will cover staffing costs for the Project Team, any costs associated with research projects required for the Project and future costs associated with implementing any changes. It is expected that the bid will be within the small-scale scheme parameters.

9. Secondly work is being carried out to develop a bid to expand the existing plan for the Water Response facility, which was approved by Members on 16 December 2013, to include facilities for other agencies, and the public, to be trained in a range of activities to improve preparedness for flooding. That may include water safety related to flooding and the practical application of flood defence measures. It is expected that this bid will be either in the medium or large scale scheme parameters, and the bid may be supported by a number of other agencies as there is the potential for there to be significant savings in training costs for those agencies, including other FRS.
10. A partner day, which Members are invited to, is planned for 29 April 2014 at Service Headquarters to explain to key partners what the scheme may look like and give them the opportunity to contribute to the development of the bid. A wide range of partners from community groups to the Police and Local Authorities have been invited as well as local Members of Parliament.
11. The intention for the expansion is to increase the planned physical infrastructure of the facility which could, for example, replicate a street scene with houses on it with the possibility for the "street" to be flooded to provide a training facility for other agencies and the public. There would also be the potential to develop classrooms and storage facilities as well. There would be some savings to the Service in the long term as it would be an efficient way to deliver the flood preparedness work that we are seeking to deliver as part of the Strategic Plan 2014/17, it is also likely that partners may achieve savings by being able to train their staff locally.
12. The prospectus was only released in March 2014 and with a deadline of June 2014 there is a lot of work to do in a short space of time to develop the final bids; however it is felt that it is prudent to put bids in for those two areas.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

13. The bids, if successful, will assist the Authority to deliver the Strategic Plan 2014/17 in an efficient manner.

#### FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

14. The bids can assist the Service financially and provide support to the Service Wide Efficiency Review which is a key enabler to ensuring we deliver Value for Money.

#### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15. None directly arising.

#### EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

16. EIAs will be completed prior to the bids being submitted.

#### STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

17. The bids, particularly the one to support the Service Wide Efficiency Review, will assist the Authority to mitigate the Strategic Risk relating to funding.

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

18. None directly arising, although the water facility could improve safety for the community and other agencies.

## COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

19. The planned partner day on 29 April 2014 will be the start of communication on the planned bids.

## DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

20. A small group of staff from across Directorate have been working on the initial bid options. Consultation will also take place with partners at the event on 29 April 2014.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

21. *Fire and Rescue Authorities Bidding for Transformation Funds 2015/16 - bid prospectus* as published by DCLG, March 2014.

## RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

22. That Members endorse the steps being taken to develop the bids and approve the submission of those bids prior to the deadline of 4 June 2014.

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