



**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Item No 9**

**MEETING: 17 NOVEMBER 2014**

---

**SUBJECT: FIRE TRANSFORMATION FUND BID UPDATE**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER  
AND THE CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY**

---

## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Authority of the outcome of the bidding process for the Government Fire Transformation Fund grant scheme 2015-16.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In March 2014, following a period of consultation, the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) announced the bidding process for a £75m Fire and Rescue Authority Transformation Fund for 2015-16. This was a competitive bidding process divided into 3 lots:

- Larger sized schemes (£5m+)
- Medium sized schemes (£2-5m)
- Smaller scale schemes (under £2m)

- 2.2 Authorities were allowed to submit up to three bids, no more than one in each category. A number of criteria were in place for the allocation of the funds. Bids were expected to have a good strategic fit with the 5 aims of the fund, which build on Sir Ken Knight's review of fire and rescue service operations and efficiency. The aims were:

- Encourage greater collaboration (eg with other emergency services or local authorities)
- Improve local accountability
- Increase on-call arrangements
- Prioritise prevention and protection

- Promote asset transformation/other efficiencies

2.3 TWFRA submitted two bids to the process. As with other bidding rounds, it was been our principle to submit bids where they enhance plans and/or partnership relationships already in place, rather than seeking to “invent” projects purely because funding is available. This is in line with our overall approach to strategic planning, but also in keeping with the bidding guidance.

2.4 The two bids were:

**Fire and Police: serving neighbourhoods together (£930K)** - to support collaboration with Northumbria Police through co location on a number of fire stations

**Changing the operational response model (£7m)** - to support implementation of the Response review through providing capital for TRVs, a new fire station and a range of technology including cold cutting and thermal scanning

2.5 On 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014, the Authority was notified that the Fire and Police collaboration bid has been successful. 30 FRAs were awarded grants, the majority of these for collaborative projects. The bid for funding to deliver the Response review was not successful.

2.6 A list of all the successful proposals is attached as Appendix A. Collaboration features very strongly in the list of successful bids.

### **3 HR IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 This report has no HR implications.

### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Fire Transformation Fund represents a top slice of total national fire funding which is retained by Government for a competitive process which promotes transformation activity in line with the Knight review. This funding supports transformation which is already part of TWFRA’s overall approach to balancing community risk and available resources through the IRMP process.

4.2 The grant will cover the entire cost of delivering the proposed co-locations between Northumbria Police and TWFRS on a number of our fire stations. This will free up funding which would have needed to be allocated to this work, for other purposes. Financial benefit is shared across ourselves and Northumbria Police.

- 4.3 The grant covers activities in 2015-16.
- 4.4 This co-location process has financial benefits to the Authority in terms of income based on rent and a share of building running costs. These are currently being calculated in negotiation with Northumbria Police, and will begin to play into the budget in 2015-16.

## **5 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Bid submissions required a high level risk assessment which links to our ability to deliver the projects effectively. This was completed for each bid and includes TWFRAs track record of delivering complex projects, and meeting all financial targets, as assessed by external auditors.
- 5.2 It is considered that part of the benefit of co-location will be operational, ie it will facilitate joint working to reduce community risk in the areas where teams are co-located.

## **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 Members are requested to:
- Note the outcome of the bidding process for the Fire Transformation Fund 2015-16
  - Receive further reports as required in future.



## Appendix A: Summary of successful bids

Fire and Rescue Authority	Bid Description	Award *
Avon Fire	Project to merge two fire stations into a one. Will produce ongoing efficiencies while maintaining fire cover and improving community safety provision to the public.	£1.05 M
Bedfordshire Fire	Project to deliver a more efficient and robust on-call service to meet the changing needs of the local community and service.	£0.31 M
Buckinghamshire Fire	Project to merge two fire stations and a police site into a modern joint facility. Will enable improved operational and support function collaboration.	£2.84 M
Cambridgeshire Fire	A collaborative project with both Bedfordshire and Devon and Somerset fire and rescue authorities to further develop a web cloud ready service for on-call firefighter recruitment.	£1.45 M
Cheshire Fire	To fund a safety and life-skills centre to educate those most at risk of accidental death or injury, focusing on prevention and protection as an efficient use of fire service resource to benefit the local community.	£1.95 M
Cleveland Fire	Delivering efficiencies and protecting front line service delivery via building two new community fire stations while improving crewing arrangements with recruitment of 48 on-call firefighters.	£2.80 M
Cumbria	This collaborative project will deliver a new Fire, Ambulance and Police centre in Ulverston, including Library Services and council office facilities to maximise community engagement potential. In addition a separate accommodation block will enable a day-crew plus system delivering revenue savings while protecting frontline services through a more efficient crewing arrangement.	£4.68 M
Derbyshire Fire	Project to build a new joint police and fire headquarters enabling shared support services and improved partnership working benefiting their local community.	£1.50 M
Devon & Somerset Fire	A project with both Kent and Essex fire and rescue authorities to establish a procurement hub leading towards a national procurement capability for the sector.	£0.37 M
Durham Fire	This collaborative project will build joint emergency services stations at Barnard Castle and Durham City. Barnard Castle will also house the local Mountain Rescue Team making the shared site the first “Quad-Service” in the country.	£3.78 M
Essex Fire	Essex leads a syndicate of nine fire and rescue authorities establishing an insurance pooling arrangement open to all fire and rescue authorities with additional secondary insurance to cover extreme events. Efficiencies will be achieved via reduced insurance costs, whilst continuing to maintain a robust approach to risk management.	£0.22 M
Greater Manchester	A police, fire and ambulance prevention and protection collaboration to create multi-functional teams via an on-call payment model targeting significant demand factors that impact across all three services, improving quality of life outcomes for individuals and the	£3.73 M
Greater Manchester	A collaborative protection and prevention project including Salford city council, creating prevention hubs delivering bespoke support for young people, via evidence-based interventions to improve quality of life outcomes	£0.49 M

for individuals and the community.

Hampshire Fire	The provision of a new joint police and fire service headquarters; plus police co-location at fire stations and progression of fleet maintenance partnerships, enabling both efficiencies and closer collaboration.	£2.60 M
Hampshire Fire	Project to transform the way on call services are delivered by using smaller early intervention vehicles to provide more efficient use of resources, while collaborating with ambulance services to attend more medical emergencies	£1.39 M
Hereford & Worcester Fire	Project will merge existing stations into a new fire station, rationalising the estate while maintaining service level. Develop joint community safety initiatives with the police, enhance prevention and protection, establish a co-responding pilot with the ambulance service, provide support to water related incident volunteers and develop Red Cross relations.	£2.38 M
Hereford & Worcester Fire	Project to co-locate the headquarters functions of both police and fire services via an extension to the existing West Mercia Police headquarters to achieve back office efficiencies.	£1.89 M
Hertfordshire	Collaboration project with county council services to re-locate library services in four Hertfordshire villages to on-call fire stations, with resultant joint-use rationalisation efficiencies whilst establishing a community friendly platform for prevention and protection service delivery.	£0.70 M
Kent Fire	Kent will lead a syndicate, with West Sussex and West Yorkshire to upgrade the existing National Fire Service Emergency Cover Toolkit to a modern, fit for purpose risk modelling toolkit. This sector led project in collaboration with Chief Fire Officers' Association will enable the toolkit to continue to provide an enabler for change.	£0.35 M
Lancashire Fire	A project to convert a fire station to Day Crewing Plus by providing an on-site accommodation block. This will enable a voluntary shift to this standby cover model, which will deliver revenue savings while protecting frontline services through this more efficient crewing arrangement.	£0.57 M
Lancashire Fire	A blue light collaboration project to co-locate fire and ambulance services at a new fire station, with resultant joint-use efficiencies whilst maintaining fire cover response standards and providing an opportunity to develop a co-responding scheme with the ambulance service.	£2.44 M
London Fire	A collaborative project to implement data transfer between fire, ambulance and police control rooms to support joint incidents. This will raise the efficiency of resolving incidents and forms part of a long term strategy to increase London fire's ability to collaborate with its police and ambulance delivery partners.	£0.76 M
Merseyside Fire	This project merges existing stations into three new efficient fire stations, while protecting front line services by the introduction of on-call arrangements at the three new sites. In addition the new sites will be shared with police and ambulance services enabling further efficiencies and service collaboration.	£4.47 M
North Yorkshire Fire	To build a new efficient and more effective transport and logistics facility as a local invest to save opportunity, with longer term potential to increase existing blue light back-office transport services collaboration.	£2.42 M
Northamptonshire	A collaboration project to replace the current fire service incident command unit vehicle with a purpose built vehicle jointly crewed by police and fire	£0.88 M

	staff; will lead to operational efficiencies and additional protection and prevention benefits from use for community engagement.	
Northamptonshire	A project to purchase joint rural response units (Police/ Fire), improving visibility and accessibility within local communities. Expanding on-call arrangements to include Police Specials and volunteers and maximising new technology to provide more efficient delivery model.	£2.28 M
Northumberland	Relocating Hexham Fire station to Hexham Hospital by converting and extending an existing building, to provide ongoing efficiencies, whilst improving operational response to the local community and closer working with the ambulance service. In addition the project will include residence facilities for doctors providing on-call emergency cover at the hospital.	£0.91 M
Oxfordshire	A project with both Lincolnshire and Devon and Somerset fire and rescue authorities to recruit and train 50 on-call fire fighters to improve protection and prevention and emergency intervention to local communities.	£0.56 M
South Yorkshire Fire	Co-locating fire and police stations in Maltby with resultant efficiencies, improved community safety, and strengthened blue light service relationships.	£0.56 M
Staffordshire Fire	A collaborative project to build a new fire station operationally shared with ambulance services, combined with a life-skills centre to act as a focal point for multi-agency engagement in respect of protection and preventative programmes.	£3.96 M
Staffordshire Fire	The creation of a tri-service neighbourhood centre in the site of the existing fire station with specific space for each service plus a shared service area. The project will enhance the effectiveness and integrated nature of the local emergency services provision whilst delivering cash and organisational benefits for each of their service partners.	£1.18 M
Suffolk	Co-locating with a mixture of police, county council and ambulance services across seven building projects with resultant shared use efficiencies. The programme will bring the number of blue light shared fire stations to 12 out of a total of 35 fire and rescue service	£4.94 M
Surrey	A collaboration with the ambulance service to provide clinical and trauma training for all front line fire fighters and publicly accessible defibrillators at all Surrey fire stations, developing a scheme that can be adopted nationwide.	£0.34 M
Surrey	A project spanning Surrey and Sussex fire, police and ambulance services to deliver efficient provision and management of transport functions. This transformational project will rationalise workshop numbers and associated costs, introducing a single management	£5.96 M
Tyne & Wear Fire	This project will co-locate police and fire services at six fire stations resulting in rationalisation efficiencies while making communities safer by improved community access and collaboration.	£0.93 M
Warwickshire	Project will recruit and support 15 on-call firefighters with resultant efficiencies, protection of front line services and assisting the establishment of two new strategic locations further improving services to local communities, by enabling firefighter redeployment.	£1.84 M
Wiltshire Fire	Project to support the planned merger between Dorset and Wiltshire FRAs, in particular, extending Dorset's prevention work to Wiltshire by building a Streetwise Safety Centre and multi-agency strategic hub in Wiltshire,	£5.54 M

delivering an additional 20,000 educational visits to children and vulnerable people each year.