



PORTFOLIO AREA: PROMOTING CARLISLE

Date of Meeting: 22 January 2007

Public

Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan: No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: CUMBRIA FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE CONSULTATION

Report of: Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Report reference: LDS.07/07

Summary: The report proposes a response to the consultation paper "A Community Focused Fire and Rescue Service" as published by Cumbria County Council on 18 December 2006.

Recommendations: The Executive is recommended to consider the Consultation Paper and the following suggested response:

"These proposals for substantial new investment in public infrastructure facilities within Carlisle are welcomed and supported by the City Council as follows:

1. The proposals will assist Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service to improve their community involvement role hence enabling a more focused and proactive approach to raising community safety initiatives. Access to the proposed two community fire stations in the Durrhill and Newtown areas of the City by local schools and other local groups will be a major part of such a community safety issue.

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: Correspondence from Cumbria County Council re Cumbria Fire and Rescue Authority Private Finance Initiative Consultation

2. The proposed locations of the two new community fire stations will enable Cumbria Fire and Rescue Services to improve modern response standards within the Carlisle area in respect of risk to life.
3. The proposed vacation of the existing Central Fire Station site in the Rickergate area will greatly contribute towards the potential regeneration and redevelopment of this key area within the city centre. This development potential is recognised as a major element within the Development Framework and Movement Strategy as part of the overall Carlisle renaissance programme.

This proposal also is a positive outcome of the Cumbria Fire Service working within the Memorandum of Understanding agreed by public sector agencies owning and operating property within the Rickergate area.”

Contact Officer: John Egan

Ext: 7004

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 On 18 December 2006, the Cumbria County Council Corporate Protection Officer – Public Protection / Chief Fire Officer wrote to the City Council as a consultee about a Cumbria Fire and Rescue Authority Private Finance Initiative Consultation. The consultation paper “A Community Focused Fire and Rescue Service” was enclosed (copy attached as Appendix A). The deadline for responses to the consultation is 12 March 2007.
- 1.2 The proposal is to build a number of new fire stations within Cumbria in a joint project with Lancashire and Merseyside Fire Authorities.
- 1.3 Within Carlisle the proposal entails the vacation of the existing Fire Station site in the Rickergate area, and the building of two new community fire stations in the Durranhill and Newtown areas of the city.

2. CONSULTATION

The City Council are being consulted on the proposals.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is recommended to consider the Consultation Paper and the following suggested response:

These proposals for substantial new investment in public infrastructure facilities within Carlisle are welcomed and supported by the City Council as follows:

1. The proposals will assist Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service to improve their community involvement role hence enabling a more focused and proactive approach to raising community safety initiatives. Access to the proposed two community fire stations in the Durranhill and Newtown areas of the City by local schools and other local groups will be a major part of such a community safety issue.
2. The proposed locations of the two new community fire stations will enable Cumbria Fire and Rescue Services to improve modern response standards within the Carlisle area in respect of risk to life.

3. The proposed vacation of the existing Central Fire Station site in the Rickergate area will greatly contribute towards the potential regeneration and redevelopment of this key area within the city centre. This development potential is recognised as a major element within the Development Framework and Movement Strategy as part of the overall Carlisle renaissance programme.

This proposal also is a positive outcome of the Cumbria Fire Service working within the Memorandum of Understanding agreed by public sector agencies owning and operating property within the Rickergate area.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To respond to the consultation document “A Community Focused Fire and Rescue Service”.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – None
- Financial – None
- Legal – None
- Corporate – The proposed vacation of the existing Central Fire Station site in the Rickergate area will greatly contribute towards the potential regeneration and redevelopment of this key area within the city centre. This development potential is recognised as a major element within the Development Framework and Movement Strategy as part of the overall Carlisle renaissance programme.
- Risk Management – None
- Equality Issues – None
- Environmental – None
- Crime and Disorder – The proposals will assist Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service to improve their community involvement role hence enabling a more focused and proactive approach to raising community safety initiatives. Access to the proposed two community fire stations in the Durranshill and Newtown areas of the City by local schools and other local groups will be a major part of such a community safety issue.

- Impact on Customers – The proposed locations of the two new community fire stations will enable Cumbria Fire and Rescue Services to improve modern response standards within the Carlisle area in respect of risk to life.

18 December 2006

Our ref: PH/KM
Enq to: Paul Hancock
Direct Line: (01900) 820217
Email Address: paul.hancock@cumbriacc.gov.uk
Web Site: www.cumbriafire.gov.uk

LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES	
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John Egan
Carlisle City Council
Civic Centre
Carlisle
CA3 8QG

Dear Consultee

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Authority Private Finance Initiative Consultation

Please find enclosed a copy of Cumbria Fire & Rescue Authority's proposal to build new fire stations within the county in a joint project with Lancashire and Merseyside Fire Authorities.

The proposals are formally issued by Cumbria County Council, as the fire and rescue authority, who are consulting and thus seeking your views on the plan.

The proposals set out in the document are:

- Vacate the existing site in Carlisle and build two new community fire stations in the Duranhill and Newtown areas of the city.
- Vacate the existing site in Workington and build a new community fire station and area headquarters in the Moorclose area of the town.
- Vacate the existing site in Whitehaven and build a new community fire station in the Meadow Road area of the town.
- Demolish the existing fire station in Penrith and build a new community fire station on the site.
- Demolish the existing fire station in Patterdale and build a new community fire station on the site.

The formal consultation period will run until noon on 12 March 2007.

You can respond to the consultation:

By post to: Community Fire Station Consultation
Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service
Station Road
COCKERMOUTH
CA13 9PR

By email to: communitystations@cumbriacc.gov.uk

By phone to: 01900 820221


By fax to: 01900 820249

You can find out more about this and other issues on our website at: cumbriafire.gov.uk.

If you have any queries about the consultation process or would like any further information, please ring 01900 820221.

We will acknowledge all responses and analyse and evaluate their content at the end of the consultation period.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the name.

B Dolan
Corporate Director – Public Protection/Chief Fire Officer

CUMBRIA FIRE &
RESCUE SERVICE



County Council

A Community Focused Fire and Rescue Service



PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING



This document sets out the proposals for the new community fire stations. It details the current provision, the changes and the reasons why these changes are being made. It also gives you an opportunity to make comments on the proposals.

The Background to Change

In June 2003 the Government produced a White Paper called 'Our Fire and Rescue Service'. The paper set out the Government's vision for the fire and rescue service of the future, how it intends to deliver that vision and make the service more efficient and effective and in particular to reducing the number of fires and associated deaths and injuries.

Today's modern fire and rescue service has a much greater community role. Our priority has to be on reducing the risk of fire and other emergencies. Since 2003 we have, through our home safety check initiative, seen a 65% reduction in injuries from accidental dwelling fires.

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Authority is determined to build upon existing prevention work and develop new initiatives with communities to raise awareness on safety. This does not detract from our front-line response to risks posed from fire, road traffic collisions, natural disasters, terrorist incidents and other life threatening situations. Emergencies will still occur and when they do, people in Cumbria can be assured of a prompt and professional response from their fire and rescue service.

Until now, the service has organised its staffing and the location of firefighters, stations and appliances (fire engines) to match national standards that were originally set in the 1940s, based on risk to commerce and property. Our response standards are now based on an assessment of **risk to life**.

Changes to Your Fire and Rescue Service

The role of the fire and rescue service in this country has been going through a dramatic change in recent years. At the very heart of what Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service strives to achieve is the focus on making the county a better place in which to live and work. A county that promotes opportunity and a better quality of life for all, and one which both residents and visitors can enjoy.

We have a strong local vision, and are achieving a great deal for the people we serve. In order to take the service forward and further improve the way we protect communities we are proposing to **increase** the number of fire stations in the county.

We plan to build new community fire stations and relocate some of our existing resources. The provision of new, modern community fire stations will improve our ability to interact with those sections of society most at risk and help us deliver increasingly wide-ranging preventative strategies, while providing an effective and efficient response to the challenges of the world we live in today.



During 2006 we developed risk management proposals outlined the previous year by completing a comprehensive review, analysis and evaluation of risk across the county. By doing so we are now in a clear position to focus our efforts where they will have most effect to achieve the following:

- ◆ a focused and proactive community safety response and
- ◆ an effective intervention response appropriate to the level of risk

Current Provision

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Authority serves an area almost four and a half times the size of Greater London. Currently operating from 38 fire stations across the county the public is protected 24 hours a day, seven days a week by well trained and fully equipped firefighters. Recent investment by Cumbria County Council has seen new, modern community fire stations built at Barrow and Cockermouth. Expanding our community role further, we have provided two more additional community safety facilities at Carlisle and Workington. All of these facilities provide excellent learning environments for the delivery of the Authority's community safety initiatives. These community fire stations are also available for use by schools, local groups and our partner organisations to promote and support public safety.



We have set ourselves some challenging targets and if we are to succeed in our goal, we must continue to further develop our role in the community. Much has been achieved to date, however, we cannot stand still. Some of our existing facilities are outdated and do not allow us to provide the full range of community services we strive to deliver. Having completed the process of reviewing and analysing



the risk in Cumbria it is clear that the geographical location of some of our fire stations does not provide the most suitable base from which to respond to emergencies and engage with local communities. In order to continue meeting our ward based response standards we must look to relocate some of our existing facilities.

What are the proposals?

Cumbria County Council has backed a joint project with Lancashire and Merseyside Fire Authorities. This £35 million North West Fire and Rescue Authority (NWFRA) project, backed by Private Finance Initiative (PFI) funding, will provide a total of 20 new and refurbished fire stations for the North West region. Cumbria Fire & Rescue Authority proposes to replace and refurbish fire stations in seven locations within the county, including replacing and relocating the existing station in Carlisle which was flooded in January 2005. Carlisle will also benefit from an additional station which will improve response times and our ability to deliver key services to the communities of Carlisle. These proposals will see the number of fire stations in Cumbria **increase** from 38 to 39.

Outline planning applications for all the proposed sites are to be submitted to the relevant planning authorities early in the New Year. This planning process will give local residents the opportunity to have their say on the proposals outlined on the following pages.

Carlisle

Vacate the existing site which was flooded in 2005 and build two new community fire stations in the City. These stations will be strategically placed to ensure that we have an effective and efficient response capability whilst allowing the service to expand its community safety initiatives to the local people.



Sites that have been identified are located in the following areas;

- ◆ Durranhill
- ◆ Newtown

Operating from these two new sites will ensure response standards are met in those wards categorised as high risk and a more balanced weight of response achieved.



Workington

Vacate the existing site and build a new community fire station and area headquarters on land adjacent to Workington Sports Centre, Moorclose.



Whitehaven

Vacate the existing site and build a new community fire station on land adjacent to Meadow Road.



Penrith

Demolish the existing fire station and build a new community fire station on the same site.



Patterdale

Demolish the existing fire station and build a new community fire station on the same site.



Alston and Lazonby

As part of the initial collaborative North West project consideration was given to building new community fire stations in Alston and Lazonby. Due to limited availability of suitable sites, however, we are now hoping to renovate the existing stations.

The new and refurbished community fire stations will allow the fire and rescue authority to focus upon those areas deemed to be most at risk and to subsequently target resources both in terms of community safety education and operational response to the sections of society inevitably having most demand. There are clear benefits associated with replacing old and outdated fire stations with new, purpose built, environmentally efficient community fire stations. The introduction of these new facilities will also improve the effectiveness, welfare and morale of our staff through the provision of better working environments.

What is the time table for change?

The 12 week consultation process will end on 12 March 2007. This is an opportunity for anyone to comment and contribute to the discussion on these changes.

At the end of the consultation process we will evaluate the responses to our proposals.

The responses will form part of the joint NWFRA outline business case which will be submitted to Cumbria County Council's cabinet in March 2007. If it is decided to continue with the PFI procurement option, business casework will continue throughout 2007/08 with a view to the whole project being completed by November 2011. If it is decided not to progress, the fall back arrangements are that the existing fire stations need to be upgraded.

The proposals to develop new community fire stations will allow Cumbria Fire & Rescue Authority to meet its service requirements within its current budget provision, without any of the additional structural and lifecycle costs.

Some questions we've already been asked

Why are we making the changes? Aren't the current stations working and providing a good level of cover?

Preventing fires is becoming more and more a key part of the service we deliver, through education and awareness. However, we still need to perform intervention (reacting to and stopping fires), and the changes will allow us to achieve an effective balance between both.



What is a ‘modern, new community fire station’?

The introduction of new, modern community fire stations will enable the fire and rescue service to deliver a wide range of community safety initiatives using purpose built facilities. The new stations will obviously have accommodation to house fire engines, equipment and firefighters but will also have the added benefit of multi purpose community rooms.



These facilities will be expanded locally to meet the specific needs of the communities we serve. We will use the stations as focal points for the community and our inter-agency partners and by actively engaging in additional social inclusion activities we will seek to contribute to the reduction in anti-social behaviour leading to a safer society.

We will ensure that the community fire stations fit in with the surrounding areas, are environmentally efficient and have complementary landscaping.

How did the Authority decide where to locate the new community fire stations?

In accordance with the Government Fire Service Circular, we went through a long and detailed technical evaluation of possible sites in accordance with Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) procedures and balancing prevention with response.

Based on the National Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) model and other relevant data we can predict the effect of relocating stations and the underlying risk of the area. The process has been verified by the Government and endorsed by Cumbria County Council.

What benefits other than fire safety will be provided for the community?

Community fire stations will be able to provide specific community safety needs for their respective areas and a meeting place for the local community. By actively engaging in additional social inclusion activities the service seeks to contribute to the creation of safe and secure communities.



What about the other fire stations in the County?

There are no proposals at this time to change the location of any other fire stations in Cumbria. We will however continue to review the location of fire stations as part of our risk management process to ensure response standards can be achieved.

We are interested to hear YOUR COMMENTS on our proposals.

Fire and rescue authorities have a statutory duty to consult the public in respect of the best value requirements embodied in the 1999 Local Government Act. Section 3 of this Act requires fire and rescue authorities to consult council tax and business rate payers, service users and others with an interest to help decide how to fulfil the duty of continuous improvement and to take a broader view of needs and priorities.

The consultation process begins on 18 December 2006 and concludes on 12 March 2007.

Please ensure your comments and views reach us by 12:00 noon on 12 March 2007.

You can get a copy of this document in different formats such as large print, braille, audio, or in a different language by calling 01229 894401.

Pode obter uma cópia deste documento em vários formatos, como por exemplo em Braille, áudio, ou numa outra língua. Para tal ligue para o 01229 894401.

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Comments can be submitted as follows:

By post to: Community Fire Station Consultation
Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service HQ
Station Road
Cockermouth
Cumbria
CA13 9PR

By email: communitystations@cumbriacc.gov.uk

By Telephone: 01900 820221
By Fax: 01900 820249

Further information about this process and Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service can be found on our website: www.cumbriafire.gov.uk



How safe is your home?

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service is working with its partners to reduce the number of people being killed in house fires. One of the ways we are doing this is to carry out home safety checks.

Every home in Cumbria is eligible to apply for a FREE Home Fire Safety Check to help them to deal with the potential fire hazards in their homes. If you contact us, we will help you design a 'fire plan' so that your family will know how to react if you have a fire in your home.

If necessary we will also fit a battery powered smoke alarm so that your family will get an early warning of fire.

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service have already carried out more than 37,000 of these Home Fire Safety Checks.

This service is completely FREE OF CHARGE and will not take up more than 30 minutes of your time.

These FREE Home Fire Safety Checks will be carried out by Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service personnel who will always carry an Identification Card.

Call now to arrange for a Fire Safety Officer to complete a FREE Fire Safety check in your home and to discuss your FREE smoke alarm and fire plan



 **0800 358 4777**

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