

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HORIZONS

Agenda Item No: 10

Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

To: **Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee**

Date: **4 June 2008**

From: **Daniel Rust, Estates & Property Manager**

Purpose: **The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee on progress and current issues relating to growth in the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District areas with regard to Fire & Rescue Service provision.**

Recommendation:

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee on progress and current issues relating to growth in the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District areas with regard to Fire & Rescue Service provision.

2.0 Cambridge City

- 2.1. A new 4 bay whole time duty station is to be built on the existing Parkside site at Cambridge between June 2009 and April 2011. This has been designed to provide modern facilities to serve the existing communities.
- 2.2. Current progress is that OJEU notice was issued resulting in a shortlist for tender purposes being drawn up in January 2008. Detailed design now in progress with tender documents being finalised for issue in September 2008.
- 2.3. Funding issues are nil as development of flats above should cover the costs of the new Fire Service Premises.
- 2.4. Gaining planning consent was difficult for this project despite officer support and was won on appeal. Joint working exists with the site developer and registered social landlord for 53 out of the total of 131 housing units to be built above the new Fire Station.
- 2.5. A temporary station will be provided for the duration of the reconstruction at the Territorial Army depot at Coldhams Lane.

3.0 Cambridge Fringe Development

- 3.1. Cambridge urban fringe development will see population growth and consequent increase in risk profile.
- 3.2. A bid has been made for Fire & Rescue facilities under Section 106 (S106) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This covers 3 options in descending order:

Preferred option is sprinklers to all domestic and commercial premises to reduce fire deaths and injuries. Second option is for a training facility to reflect the changing role of the Fire & Rescue Service. Third option is for a new 1 bay retained duty station to be built.

- 3.3 The report also covers provision of fire hydrants, access for fire appliances and arson reduction measures.

4.0 Cambourne

- 4.1. The provision of a new 1 bay retained duty system station here was approved by the Policy and Finance committee of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority on 24 April 2008.
- 4.2. Current situation is that design work is being finalised to go forward for presentation to developers with submission for planning and building consent to follow.
- 4.3. Timescales are for tenders to be invited in September 2009 with a start date envisaged in January 2010 and completion in January 2011.
- 4.4. Opportunities for joint working with the Police considered in the early planning stage. However, it was found that timelines did not correlate between the two organisations and the partnership working was therefore ended with 2 separate schemes going forward from January 2006.

5.0 Northstowe

- 5.1. Current issues under discussion are location and design. Fire Service requirement is for a 1 bay retained duty Fire and Rescue station.
- 5.2. A bid is currently being drawn up at a series of meetings being facilitated by Cambridgeshire Horizons for Fire & Rescue facilities under Section 106 (S106) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This covers 2 options in descending order:
Preferred option is sprinklers to all domestic and commercial premises to reduce fire deaths and injuries. Second option is for a new 1 bay retained duty station to be built.
- 5.3. Opportunities for joint premises are currently being explored with Police and Ambulance service. Progress to date is preliminary design of layouts and costing exercise.

6.0 Other schemes

- 6.1 An asset management scheme for 2007 – 2012 has been drawn up and approved by the Fire Authority. Works to date have been preparation of plans and cost estimates for replacement premises at the following locations:

St Neots
Yaxley
Burwell
Swaffham Bulbeck

Huntingdon
Fire Service Headquarters.

- 6.2 Such planned replacement premises are based on condition surveys and their consideration has been found to be no longer fit for purpose in delivery of a modern Fire and Rescue service to the community, or have maintenance liabilities that make their future retention worthy of further option studies.
- 6.3 The Fire & Rescue Service is aware of further outline plans for new townships at Mereham and Hanley Grange but to date no action has been taken by the service.

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23 MAY 2008