

Essex Fire Authority

Report to the Constituent Authorities 7 December 2011

KELVEDON PARK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – AUTHORITY TO PROCEED TO CONTRACT TENDER

We agreed the next development phase for the Kelvedon Park site and the construction of an extension to the existing office building using extant planning permission. The Authority will relocate its Control functions from the Hutton site (enabling the disposal of this site) and relocate/expand OCAT training facilities from rented accommodation

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT 2012/13

A provisional figure had been received but it was not final. The formula grant for 2012/13 was expected to be the same as the provisional figure of £33.1m announced December 2010, this would be an increase of £0.8m on 2011/12. For 2012/13 the Government is offering fire and rescue authorities a grant equivalent to a 3% council tax increase if council tax levels remain at (or below) 2010/11 levels. The 2012/13 grant would only be paid for one year and therefore savings will need to be found in 2013/14 to offset the loss of grant. The level of council tax in 2013/14 onwards will be up to £1.1m lower because the rate will not be increased in 2012/13 – a relevant consideration because we expect to see a reduction in our government grant funding in 2013/14 and 2014/15. The Authority agreed that detailed budget plans would include provision for a council tax freeze in 2012/13.

FIRE COVER REVIEW TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME – BRENTWOOD, CANVEY ISLAND AND GREAT DUNMOW FIRE STATIONS

Fire Cover Review Transformation Programme Objective 2 – Brentwood Fire Station
“Crewing arrangements will change from two wholetime fire appliances to one wholetime and one retained duty system fire appliance. Personnel in addition to that needed for the revised crewing model will be redeployed to other fire stations and posts about the County.”

A significant recruitment campaign has been established for the new contingency of retained personnel at Brentwood Fire Station and a detailed training programme has been developed to utilise resources and availability of whole-time personnel to maximize the potential to progress the new retained personnel to be able to ride as operational crew at Brentwood. A mixed crewing system will commence in January/February 2012 with newly recruited retained personnel riding on appliances in order to maintain skills. The project is targeted to deliver by 31 March 2013

Fire Cover Review Transformation Programme Objective 1 – Canvey Island Fire Station
“Crewing arrangements will change from one wholetime crewed fire appliance and one retained duty system crewed fire appliance to two retained duty system

crewed fire appliances. The existing wholetime personnel currently posted to Canvey Island will be redeployed to other fire stations and posts.”

The Canvey Island project entered its transition stage on 15 October 2011. At this point the wholetime crews were transferred from the station to various locations around the County and both appliances were placed on retained turn out statues. At the same time mixed crewing was introduced as a crewing option within ECFRS and this has allowed for the retained crews to be augmented by wholetime personnel on an out duty basis as required.

Fire Cover Review Transformation Programme Objective 4 - Great Dunmow Fire Station “Change the current crewing system from wholly retained duty system personnel to a mixture of wholetime and retained duty system personnel. The wholetime posts being sourced from the planned changed set out in the Fire Cover Review.”

We agreed the introduction of nucleus crewing supported by ‘on-call’ firefighters. The new crewing model will ensure that the current 20 retained firefighters based at Great Dunmow will maintain their current employment status and with the addition of eight wholetime firefighter posts a structured response to the identification of risk and planned risk treatment will be facilitated within the Great Dunmow and wider Uttlesford and Braintree area.

**Councillor Anthony Hedley
Chairman**