

ESSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service



SUMMARY

MEETING

AGENDA ITEM

6

**Policy and Strategy
Committee**

MEETING DATE

26 July 2017

REPORT NUMBER

EFA/097/17

SUBJECT

Fleet Workshops

REPORT BY

The Finance Director & Treasurer, Mike Clayton

PRESENTED BY

The Finance Director & Treasurer, Mike Clayton

This paper seeks approval to re-start the agreed project to build a replacement fleet workshops. Three options for the siting of the workshops are proposed and further work to evaluate these will be carried out in conjunction with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Policy & Strategy Committee are asked to:

1. Agree to re-start the project to build a replacement fleet workshop;
2. Agree that options to include co-location with the Police or a joint Police and Fire workshop should be considered in addition to the proposal to build a workshop at Kelvedon Park; and
3. Note that details of the Options and their evaluation will initially be considered by the Emergency Services Collaboration Board.

BACKGROUND

In December 2015 (Paper EFA/105/15) the Authority agreed a project to design and build a new fleet workshops at Kelvedon Park to replace the existing life expired facility at Lexden, Colchester. In November 2016 the Committee agreed to pause the project because of potential conflicting requirements for development at Kelvedon Park. Since then a task group of Officers have been meeting with representatives of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Essex Police to review the potential for the development of joint workshop facilities, and other options.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have not agreed to the release of the latest draft report of the outcomes of this work. Further meetings of the working group are planned and the intention is to submit the report to the next meeting of the Emergency

Services Collaboration Board where the Authority is represented by the Chairman and the Acting Chief Fire Officer. At present the details are not yet agreed between all the parties. What is agreed is that a small number of options, including that already approved by the Authority, and the development of either co-located or joint fleet facilities need to be considered and evaluated in more detail.

To enable the Authority to support this more detailed analysis approval is sought to re-open the Fleet Workshops replacement project with an extended remit to consider a range of options including co-location with the police and a joint facility. The original proposal, agreed in 2015 to build a new workshop at Kelvedon Park will remain an option against which alternatives can be considered. Should there be agreement with the Police for a different option to that already agreed by the Authority then this would be brought back to the Authority for approval.

RISK ANALYSIS

The condition of the existing workshops at Lexden, Colchester is a potentially significant risk to the Authority. The overall condition and construction of the building mean that the most practical solution is for a complete replacement and this option was agreed by the Authority in 2015. Clearly the longer the time period before the facility is replaced the higher the likelihood that the risk of loss of the facility will become an issue for the Authority. Maintenance of the existing building continues, but the risk of catastrophic failure will increase over time.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Since April 2017 the Authority has been under a legal duty to collaborate with other emergency services. Collaboration in looking at options for the provision of fleet maintenance facilities helps meet this legal duty.

FINANCIAL AND USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

The original project cost remains unchanged at this stage. Options for a joint facility may have different potential costs and funding options that will need to be considered. The proposed approach can be managed within the existing approved funding for the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

As one of the larger single facilities that the Authority owns, any improvement in key performance costs will make an improvement to the carbon footprint of the Authority.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

A new workshop building will ensure current equality standards in terms of access and facilities are achieved.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985	
List of background documents	
Appendices	
Proper Officer:	Finance Director & Treasurer
Contact Officer:	Mike Clayton, Essex Fire Authority, Kelvedon Park, Witham CM8 3HB. 01376 576000 E-mail: mike.clayton@essex-fire.gov.uk