



COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

23 SEPTEMBER 2019

ESTATES UPDATE

REPORT OF HEAD OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update members on the latest position in relation to the Estates Improvement Programme (EIP) and of plans to address the risks associated with outstanding estates maintenance.

Background

2. The Authority has committed to further estates projects that aim to modernise the estate so that it is fit for purpose and provides a basis for delivering efficient services in future years. The capital costs associated with the current outstanding project are included in the Authority's capital programme.
3. A summary of the costs and timescales associated with the current programme are set out in the table below.

Estates Improvement Programme Costs

Project	Cost	Estimated Completion
Darlington station rebuild	£4.000M	Autumn 2020

Darlington Station

4. Following extensive internal consultation, a planning application was made to Darlington Borough Council in November 2018. This was to consider plans for the demolition and rebuild of Darlington Fire Station on the existing site at St. Cuthbert's Way, Darlington.
5. In response to the planning application an objection has been raised by the Environment Agency (EA) with regard to the risks of fluvial flooding from the river Skerne and how this is mitigated within the flood risk assessment of the planning application.
6. The project team have commissioned a flood modelling assessment to be undertaken by JBA Consulting Ltd.

7. Due to resourcing issues within the EA it has not been possible to obtain further informal consultation response on our flood risk assessment. Therefore, the application has been resubmitted for statutory consultation with an expected outcome mid-September.
8. As the outcome of this objection may result in variations to the floor levels of the final site plans, this may impact on the budget that is planned for the project. Further to this, the delays that have been experienced are increasing risks for contract schedules with the selected construction contractor.
9. The Service is therefore seeking approval for delegated authority to be granted to approve any increase of budget for this project limited to 10% of the extant budget of £4M. It is proposed that the delegated authority would be agreed between the Chair and Vice Chair to the Combined Fire Authority, the Chief Fire Officer, the Treasurer and the Clerk of the Combined Fire Authority.

Recommendation

10. Members are requested to:
 - a) **note** the contents of the report;
 - b) **approve** the delegated authority for up to a 10% increase in expenditure for the Darlington estates project.

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