

APPENDIX 4

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 10 JUNE 2008

APPLICATION FROM THE WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE

Background

1. The West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) has submitted a grant application to all 5 Area Committees to assist with the capital costs associated with a Fire Reparation Intervention Education Project (F.I.R.E), under the auspices of the Dudley Children & Young People's Trust.
2. The F.I.R.E. Project is directed at young people in the 14-19 age group who are not in education, employment or training or on the verge of being so. The intention is concentrate on the 150 most needy young people in this category from across the Borough, as identified via Dudley's Key Stage 4 'Engage' programme.
3. WMFS will run 10 week-long courses (15 persons per course) which will be accredited by the Open College Network, providing a paper qualification. The course will be a mixture of classroom-based interaction and practical fire-fighting exercises working on the Fire Station drill yard.
4. It is designed as a means of increasing self-esteem, communications and social skills in a disciplined environment for those young people who are most often disengaged from school life and therefore may leave school without aspirations or qualifications.
5. Therefore it is intended that along with benefits to the individuals concerned, there should be knock-on benefits to the wider community.

Finance

6. The capital bid is for a range of personal protection equipment, drill yard equipment and a P.A. system, which will be used solely for the purposes of the Project.

7. The total cost of the equipment is £8065.00 and WMFS is requesting **£1613.00** from each Area Committee, therefore this is submitted as an 'All Wards' application. As Central Dudley divides its available capital between its 5 Wards, the contribution from each Ward would therefore be **£322.60**.
8. WMFS have secured £30,000 from the Dudley Children & Young Peoples Trust Group and will match the £8065.00 with same amount in revenue funding. That doesn't include administration costs or hire costs for the training yard, as these will be absorbed in day-to-day activities.

Urgency of the Bid

9. The reason for this application coming directly to Committee is that WMFS want to start this programme in September to coincide with the academic year and have requested that the Committee consider it with that urgency in mind.
10. Under normal circumstances the application would be considered first by the Capital Allocations Working Group, but their first meeting is unlikely to take place until September 2008. Therefore any resulting recommendations could not be considered until the subsequent Area Committee meeting in November 2008.
11. However, it is understood that the other four Area Committees are also considering this application at their June meetings and if successful, the payments will be co-ordinated.