

Cabinet

September 2020

Horsham Fire Station and Training Centre

Report by Chairman of the Task and Finish Group – Horsham Fire Station and Training Centre

Electoral divisions: All

Summary

The Horsham Fire Station Task and Finish Group (TFG) was established as a joint TFG with members of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee and the Fire and Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee. Its purpose was to scrutinise the proposed Cabinet decision for the delivery of a new Horsham Fire Station and Fire & Rescue Service (FRS) Training Centre.

The TFG undertook its work at a single meeting and this report details its findings and recommendations to Cabinet on 15 September.

The TFG considered the draft decision report and was content to endorse the proposal and asks Cabinet to consider the recommendations listed below.

Recommendations

- (1) To ensure that the service requirements for a flexible training facility at Horsham and to ensure sufficient training capacity for future needs are addressed in the planning process;
 - (2) That future reports for investment proposals contain sufficient financial detail to ensure members are able to fully scrutinise them;
 - (3) That more information on the approximate level of capital receipts is included in the decision report if feasible;
 - (4) That a "do nothing" option with details of implications is added to the decision report
 - (5) That the Task and Finish Group endorses the delivery of the Horsham Fire Station and training centre, including the financial implications, and agrees that the project should be given priority in the capital programme; and
 - (6) That "as a matter of urgency" is added to the end of Recommendation (2) in the decision report.
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Proposal

1 Deliberations of the Task and Finish Group

- 1.1 The TFG met once on 28 August 2020 to scrutinise the draft decision report which is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 15 September 2020.
- 1.2 Members of the TFG raised questions about response times, capacity of the site, opening hours and viability of the building.
- 1.3 The TFG investigated the financial details in order to establish the breakdown of costs and the possible capital receipts from any disposal of surplus assets.
- 1.4 Members felt that it was essential that the planning application addressed the need for flexibility to ensure the site is available to be used as efficiently as possible and to address future needs of the service.
- 1.5 The TFG raised concern about the time the project had taken and recommended that it be taken forward urgently.
- 1.6 The TFG was broadly happy with the content of the draft decision report and supported the decision, but raised concern about the level of financial detail. It made recommendations as detailed above including one to strengthen future investment proposals being presented to scrutiny committees for consideration.

Tony Kershaw

Director of Law and Assurance

Contact Officer: Rachel Allan, Senior Advisor, 0330 222 8966
rachel.allan@westsussex.gov.uk