
Report of the West Leeds Area Manager

Inner West Area Committee

Date: 22 June 2006

Subject: Bramley FIREPLACE

Electoral Wards Affected:

Armley; Bramley & Stanningley

Calverley & Farsley

Farnley & Wortley

Pudsey

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

This report outlines the proposals to transform the former Bramley Fire Station into a Community Safety headquarters and a state of the art visitors centre which would be used to teach fire safety to young people and asks the Inner West Leeds Area Committee to support the proposal of West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service through a contribution of £25,000 for external environmental works.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 To inform the committee of the West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service proposals for the redevelopment of the former Bramley Fire Station.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The former Bramley Fire Station on Stanningley Road has been unused since 2004. The site is now beginning to look derelict, which creates a poor impression for visitors coming into Leeds, from the west and those approaching West Leeds from the east.

2.2 Over recent months, West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service (FRS) has commenced a wide ranging and ambitious modernisation programme. A key element of modernisation is a revision of the legislative framework the FRS operates within. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 presents a new duty of 'promoting fire safety' on the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA)

- 2.3 In addition, as part of an ongoing review of fire cover provision across the county, a new fire station is being constructed on Leeds Road to serve the city of Bradford. The current site, located at Nelson Street, is due to be vacated in autumn 2006. However, the Leeds Road station does not have sufficient space to accommodate the FRS community safety staff, currently housed at the old site.
- 2.4 This has presented an opportunity to transfer community safety staff to the Bramley site, given approval for the refurbishment of the site. It also offers another, quite unique, opportunity which is currently being evaluated.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 In line with the national teaching curriculum, community safety staff visit each Year 5 class, in every primary school across the county, to deliver fire safety awareness lessons, at least once a year. This method of delivery is resource intensive and the FRS feel the service can be provided at a much higher quality and more effectively by providing a state of the art, technologically modern, educational visitor centre.
- 3.2 The FRA has been looking at a number of options for the former Bramley Fire Station site. Their preferred option is to redevelop the site as a fire safety training centre. Bramley fire station is large enough to accommodate both the community safety headquarters and the education centre, with the site lending itself to housing the community safety vehicle fleet and the broad range of demonstration appliances.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 This project will help the West Yorkshire Fire Authority fulfill its statutory requirements to provide community safety training to all Year 5 pupils. This also fits with Leeds City Council's priority of community safety, as outlined in the Corporate Plan and the Vision for Leeds.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 5.1 The FRA has commissioned a feasibility study for the proposed scheme, which has drawn up plans for the development and projects the cost of the work at £3 million. These proposals were presented to the West Yorkshire Fire Authority in December 2005 for their consideration, along with a number of other options. This was approved as their preferred option and funding for this project has been include as part of the WYFA Capital Budget over the next three years (2006 – 2009).
- 5.2 The FRA is seeking £25,000 from the Inner West Area Committee to help with the cost of the project and show support for the scheme. This funding would contribute to the cost of external improvements to the site to improve the local environment which would carried out ahead of the major works. Appendices A and B provide details of the proposed external improvements, including temporary hoardings which will be erected whilst the building is being refurbished to demonstrate that further investment is planned for the building.
- 5.3 It is anticipated that external environmental works and detailed design will take place during 2006/07. Actual construction works are not likely to take place until 2007/08. The Outer West Area Committee have agreed in principle to a contribution of £25,000 towards the construction works. Further details on the construction works and activities which will take place within Bramley FIREPLACE will be brought back to the Area Committee towards the end of 2006/07.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The proposal is that the station is redeveloped to create new offices and Community Safety headquarters, on the first floor, with the ground floor turned into the education centre.
- 6.2 Youth training schemes and education programmes, for young adults, are also to be developed.
- 6.3 With a scheme of this magnitude, it is key that the FRA can show support and commitment from key partners and stakeholders. The FRA is therefore seeking endorsement from each of the Local Authorities within West Yorkshire, to show regional support for the scheme.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 The Inner West Area Committee is requested to:

- Support the proposal to redevelop Bramley Fire Station site into a fire safety training centre and community safety headquarters
- Approve a contribution of £25,000 from the 2006/07 Well-being budget