

Fire capital grant application form

Applicant information

Name of fire and rescue authority:

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority

Lead contact:

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Position:

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Project overview

Project title:

Prescot Fire/Police/Ambulance Station

Brief project summary

The merging of two fire stations(Huyton /Whiston) into a single combined police/fire/ambulance station at Prescot in the Knowsley district of Merseyside.

The 3 blue-light services on Merseyside recognize the potential operational and financial efficiencies associated with co-locating front-line response units. Development and running costs would be apportioned across the organisations resulting in medium to long-term

savings for each service. Improvements in operational response could accrue from increasing opportunities to carry-out joint on-site training exercises.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) currently has two 1 pump stations at Huyton and Whiston. These would be replaced by the Prescott "blue-light" centre which is well located to cover the areas currently served by Huyton & Whiston. Even without the cost sharing savings from co-locating with partner organizations this will result in savings in running costs.

Project location:

Manchester Road, Prescott, Merseyside

Total cost of project: £5m

This is the total capital cost of the new build combined fire/police/ambulance station for all three partners.

Total amount bid for: £1.77m

This is the total capital cost for the building for the fire and rescue service element based upon an assessment of occupancy.

Is this bid a private/public partnership or solely public?

This is a solely public bid involving three public sector partners. Building work would be completed by the private sector. It is anticipated that work would be procured through the NW construction hub.

Have you submitted any other bids? If yes what is the bid title?

None

Other sources of public funding sought/obtained?

Agreement has been reached with both Merseyside Police (MP) and North West Regional Ambulance Service (NWAS) to apportion and share the start-up, building, project and on-going running costs.

Project information

1. Project title

Prescot Blue-Light Centre

2. Briefly summarise the project and its main objectives

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The Objectives of the project are :

- Significantly reduce running-costs
- Deliver cash savings
- Improve community facilities
- Ensure DDA compliant
- BREEAM Very High standard
- Improve operational effectiveness
- Better staff facilities acknowledging the right to privacy & dignity for all staff
- Improved accommodation for both police & ambulance replacing dilapidated existing building stock
- Improve joint-service operational training and therefore response, particularly at larger more complex incidents.
- Facilitate interoperability by designing the building layout to provide optimum adjacencies between key staff across the services

3. Please summarise how the project will enable you to deliver ongoing cashable resource savings and continue your service with a reduced revenue bracket.

MFRA will close two fire stations and replace them with the new Prescot station. This will accrue a saving of £330,000 year on year by reducing firefighter posts from 48 to 40. It will also reduce running costs (energy, maintenance and cleaning) by £50,000pa on-going.

The running costs of the proposed station will be low in comparison to older building stock and will have a BREEAM rating of at least Very Good. The costs of shared areas will also be shared by the three partners.

The capital start-up costs of £5m and on-going running costs will be shared equally amongst the 3 services. The fire service element at £1.77m significantly lower cost than the cost of developing a stand alone fire station facility – estimate 32.8m based upon recent PFI buildings in Merseyside.

4. Please set out the main project activities including project management arrangements, controls and assurance.

PRinCE2 project methodology has been adopted. MFRA has extensive experience of delivering high-value estates/technology focused projects and will lead the project including acting as the contracting partner for all procurements. An experienced project manager has been appointed. In addition to a conventional PRinCE2 project board, a Steering Group including political representation from the partners has been established.

Programme

- Develop design, costs & programme: RIBA Stages A-C (June-July 2012)
- Public consultation (July-August 2012)
- Outcomes of consultation and decision to proceed (September 2012 - **Key Milestone**)
- Mini-competition for contractors via North West Construction Hub (September-December 2012)
- Costs known and decision to proceed (January 2013 - **Key Milestone**)
- Build work (February 2013 – December 2013)
- Pre-habitation testing (January 2014)
- Ready for service (February 2014)

Please identify benefits, savings, and a clear timescale over which they will be achieved along with output milestones.

5. Do you have an Asset Management Plan? If available, please provide the link to your Plan, if not available electronically please forward a hard copy. If you do not have an Asset Management Plan, provide a brief assessment of the condition of your current capital assets and your proposed capital expenditure in the next 3 to 5 years.

Merseyside Fire and rescue service has a comprehensive Asset Management Plan that has been recognized as best practice . Attached is a copy of a case study on the Authority prepared by CIPFA



Merseyside (2).doc

The links below are to the current version of the Asset management plans. These are currently under review and are due to be updated in Summer 2012 to reflect changing management structures and budget cuts.

http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk/asp/pages/fire_auth/pdf/CFO_046_10_APPENDIX_A.pdf

http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk/asp/asp/pages/fire_auth/pdf/CFO_046_10_APPENDIX_B.pdf

http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk/asp/asp/pages/fire_auth/pdf/CFO_046_10_APPENDIX_C.pdf

http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk/asp/asp/pages/fire_auth/pdf/CFO_046_10_APPENDIX_D.pdf

A copy of the Authority's current capital programme is available at

http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk/asp/asp/pages/fire_auth/pdf/CFO_033_12_%20BUDGET_FINANCIAL_PLAN_2012-13_-_202016-17.pdf

http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk/asp/asp/pages/fire_auth/pdf/CFO_033_12_APPENDIX_2.pdf

http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk/asp/asp/pages/fire_auth/pdf/CFO_033_12_APPENDIX_2A.pdf

http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk/asp/asp/pages/fire_auth/pdf/CFO_033_12_APPENDIX_2B.pdf

6. Please identify the key risks and mitigations to delivery of your project should it be funded.

- One Partner drops out: review building design and reduce size accordingly. Re-calculate apportionment. Unlikely as strong partnership working with both services on other major projects.
- More than one partner drops out: still significant savings for MFRA by virtue of two stations in to one, but review extent of land acquisition necessary and business case. Unlikely as strong partnership working with both services on other major projects.
- Planning permission refused: pre-planning application discussions have proven positive and design will be sympathetic to location
- Public objection through consultation process: prevent by providing a strong case based on savings that will fund other areas of the service including a holistic approach to fire safety not relying completely on response.

7. Please explain how you intend to share good practice learning from this project.

MFRA practice is to draft comprehensive Lessons Learned reports (example attached) for all major projects such as this. This will be placed on the Service's website and partner organizations will be encouraged to do likewise.

The report will be distributed to respective professional and representative bodies.

8 .Has the bid been approved by locally established governance structures/committees?
Yes. Fire Authority on 3rd July 2012

9. Please confirm that adequate project financial controls are (or will be) in place and that the usual system of controls for ensuring financial propriety, regularity and value for money of all expenditure will be applied and rigorously followed.

The Authority has a strong framework of financial controls in place and all transactions will take place in line with Authority contractual standing orders. Prince 2 project management arrangements are in place. The Authority has a track record of successful delivery of complex construction projects on time and to budget. Recent examples include:- New Authority Workshops, Kensington Fire Station, Toxteth Firefit Hub, NW PFI Project (Merseyside led project for 16 Fire stations in NW). The NW Construction Hub will be utilized to maximize procurement efficiencies and the joint (3 blue light) procurement will bring economies of scale. Other experiences from working on a joint police/fire control room

10. Please confirm that you have fully considered long term affordability (i.e. financial risk) in developing your bids

.The bid is prepared on the basis of ensuring long term revenue savings as part of the Fire and rescue financial plans. The fire station element will be viable long term because of the disposition of stations in the nearby area mean there is little risk of any diminution in the long term need for fire cover. Both Police and ambulance intend entering into long term landlord/tenant arrangements for the use of their element so the building.

