

## Fire Cadet Project

### Background

In recent years Fire & Rescue Services have become much more involved in community-based, proactive prevention measures. This focus on community fire safety involves programmes to reduce the incidence of fires and fire-related injuries, delivered through a combination of publicity and educational outreach. This role reflects the opportunities for the Fire and Rescue Service to engage with children and young people, as well as families and the wider community, in a range of different settings, circumstances and local partnerships.

However, due to recent financial constraints the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service has had to revisit certain activities which fall outside of its statutory duties. The Fire Cadets scheme, being one of them, was chosen to be discontinued by the Management Board. This difficult decision was taken in view of the challenging financial circumstances that Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is currently facing, and will face in the foreseeable future. Prior to this, there has been an ever increasing amount of pressure upon the Service to reduce costs, increase efficiencies and reduce spending. Whilst at the same time ensuring that we are able to deliver on our core functions of keeping people safe in our community, without compromise for the safety of our personnel.

### Costings

We have two fire cadet units one based at Cricklade and one based at Ludgershall. Each unit regularly has three instructors working on their respective training nights.

The staff costs for Cricklade are approximately £5-6,000 per year.

The running costs to the station which include heat, light, and limited costs for a fire appliance as it only moves out of the garage and runs for about one hour before being returned to the garage is estimated at £1,000 per year.

There is a cost to equipment maintenance but that is currently met by the service.

Our Service Insurance Liability policy covers cadets but I would not know the exact break down for this aspect of the policy as it is all part of the policy. It is something to consider though.

The cost of uniform would be about so about £150, and currently the Personal Protective Equipment is all up to date.

The service also pays for CRB checks, which would be an additional cost of about £228 every three years and for the instructors to be registered with the incoming ISA another £336 but that is a one off cost.

The approximate costs of running the unit are, therefore, around £6-7,000 per annum.

### Proposal

Wiltshire FRS would welcome any financial support that the Community Area Board would be able to offer. This would help to guarantee the Fire Cadet Scheme for another 12 months whilst alternative solutions to fund the scheme are explored. I will also arrange for the WFRS to be represented at the CAB Meeting at 7pm on 14 July at Lyneham School.

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