

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) – Recommendations relating to the future of the Fire Cadets

On Thursday 23 September 2010 the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority agreed to the following recommendations in respect of the Fire Cadets as a response to requests received;

- That the CFA members note the contents of the paper and agree to the transfer of responsibility of the Fire Cadets to a voluntary body consisting of the Parents and Instructors from both units governed by an agreed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with those bodies.
- That CFA members agree that the re-commencement scheme will be on a date after the 7 October 2010 to allow WFRS staff to attend the relevant Community Area Boards beforehand, to assist in securing external funding schemes for these activities and allow for a smooth transition to a voluntary status."

Subsequent to this announcement, meetings have already been held with the instructors at Cricklade and also the parents and instructors at Ludgershall to make arrangements to draft up a suitable MoU which will meet the above requirements and necessary governance arrangements.

The Wiltshire FRS has used the FINDS network which connects all FRS nationally to attempt to establish if any other Authority is in a similar position and has already established a model agreement which might be adapted for Wiltshire. The results are awaited.

Costs for the cadet units have been drawn up and the breakdown is available. In précis, the cost for each unit for the rest of the existing financial year 2010/11 is £984 per unit and thereafter for the financial year 2011-12 £1968 per unit.

The Area Board unanimously agreed with Cllr Peter Colmer's proposal that he would work the Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and both cadet units to seek funding to assist the cadet units for this financial year.