

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Meeting Fire Authority

Date 9 February 2023

Title of Report Integrated Transport Function – Fort Road site, Newhaven

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Background Papers FA Paper – Urgency Panel – December 2022

Appendices None

Implications (please tick ✓ and attach to report)

CORPORATE RISK	X	LEGAL	
ENVIRONMENTAL		POLICY	
FINANCIAL	X	POLITICAL	
HEALTH & SAFETY		OTHER (please specify)	
HUMAN RESOURCES	X	CORE BRIEF	
EQUALITY IMPACT ANALYSIS			

PURPOSE OF REPORT To provide an updated timeline for the Full Business Case for Fort Road, Newhaven to return to the Fire Authority and seek delegated authority to cease the sale of Fort Road Newhaven.

RECOMMENDATION The Fire Authority is asked to:

1. agree to the timeline of the full business case for the redevelopment of the Fort Road site, Newhaven, as articulated in para 2.5;
2. note that no changes will be made to the Capital Programme until the business case, including the revenue and capital budget impacts is approved by the Fire Authority; and
3. approve the delegation of the decision to cease the sale of Fort Road, Newhaven to the Chief Fire Officer in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Treasurer.

1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In December 2022, a Fire Authority Urgency Panel was held to seek a pause in the sale of the ESFRS owned Fort Road site in Newhaven to Lewes District Council in order to build a business case to develop the South East Engineering Spoke of the broader Integrated Transport Function, involving East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Surrey Police and Sussex Police.
- 1.2 The Urgency Panel approved this recommendation.
- 1.3 This paper provides an update in relation to the development of the Full Business case and the timelines that have now been worked through.

2. TIMELINES

- 2.1 Whilst the Outline Business Case identified the development of the initial project brief and sought professional advice / input in relation to the feasibility of using Fort Road as an ITF Engineering Spoke enabling an indicative costing, it was accepted that the Full Business Case would need greater granularity to inform affordability, potential savings and opportunities.
- 2.2 In order to ensure this clarity the Estates team, applying the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Plan of Work, will move into RIBA stage 2, where the more detailed design process begins. RIBA 2 builds upon the previously gathered information meaning design concepts will be mapped to the project brief as well as the budget requirements in more detail thus providing the more detailed costings that are required.
- 2.3 In order to move through RIBA Stage 2 and to gather the detailed information the appropriate consultants have now been engaged.
- 2.4 To ensure the level of costings can provide a significant degree of certainty the timeline for the Full Business Case needs to be pushed back to enable the reports and advice to come back from the consultants.
- 2.5 It is now anticipated that the Full Business Case will go to February Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and then to the Policy & Resources Panel in April to seek approval to adjust the capital programme.
- 2.6 With this slippage in mind, this paper seeks approval from the Fire Authority to delegate authority to the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and the Treasurer, to formally stop the sale of the Fort Road site, Newhaven and to formally notify Lewes District Council in advance of the full business case being reported to Panel in April.