

HIGHLAND & ISLANDS FIRE BOARD

23 JANUARY 2009

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Lochaline Fire Station – Inter-agency Development

Report by the Chief Fire Officer

Summary

This report seeks Member approval to enter into formal dialogue with The Highland Council and Coastguard Agencies about the potential for a multi-agency approach to the replacement of Lochaline Fire Station as an integral part of the proposed new Primary School.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Highland Council has approved the replacement of Lochaline Primary School as part of their capital programme for 2009 and beyond, and are seeking to enter into formal dialogue with the Board about the benefits to the Board, the Council, Coastguard Agencies and the local community of delivering multiple Services from the proposed building.

2.0 Current Position

2.1 Outline plans for the project have been developed by the Highland Council incorporating a Fire Station into the proposed school building following discussions about accommodation needs with Officers of the Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service and Coastguard Agencies. Although these proposals have yet to be agreed, they include for the Fire Station to be integrated into the lower part of the replacement school building on the current sloping site, with a separate access for fire appliances and car parking.

2.2 Initial discussions have been on the basis of a building cost contribution for the Fire Station accommodation contained within the sketch proposals of approximately £300,000 (approx 10% of estimated total project value). This contribution is seen to be fixed, thereby providing certainty to the Board about future investment requirements.

2.3 No indication of the financial year of contribution has been indicated as the Education, Culture and Sport (ECS) Service is aware that this development will require to be considered in the overall context of the Board's capital programme. Given this circumstance, it is reasonable for the ECS Service to progress the project and for the £300,000 contribution to be made at a mutually agreeable date, including potentially upon completion of the project.

2.4 The Coastguard requirements are minimal and these will be considered along with the Fire Station accommodation.

Recommendation

Members are requested to:

- 1 Approve formal dialogue between the Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service, The Highland Council and Coastguard agencies on the replacement Lochaline Primary School as a multi-agency development on the basis of a £300,000 contribution to the project should current estimates prove to reflect eventual accommodation requirements.
- 2 Request that a further report be brought to the Board at a future date outlining the proposals in more detail and seeking formal approval to enter into the proposed joint working arrangements.

BRIAN A MURRAY
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
19 January 2009