For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Corporate Services Policy and Challenge Group
21 June 2018
Item No. 11

REPORT AUTHOR: **HEAD OF FINANCE/TREASURER**

SUBJECT: **ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS – FLEET AND TRANSPORT AND ICT**

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Background Papers:

Previous Year's Asset Management Policy and Plans

Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL		FINANCIAL	✓
HUMAN RESOURCES		EQUALITY IMPACT	✓
ENVIRONMENTAL	✓	POLICY	
ORGANISATIONAL RISK	✓	OTHER (please specify)	

Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.

PURPOSE
To present to the Corporate Services Policy and Challenge Group (CSP&CG), updated Asset Management Plans in respect of:

- Fleet and Transport (Appendix A); and
- Information and Communications Technology (Appendix B)

RECOMMENDATION:

That CSP&CG consider and recommended for approval:

1.   The attached updated Asset Management Plans for Fleet & Transport and Information & Communications Technology.

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1.   Introduction

1.1   The Authority maintains an overarching Asset Management Strategy, together with a series of underpinning Asset Management Plans comprising:

- Fleet and Transport;
- Information and Communications Technology and
- Land and Buildings (to be presented to the CSPCG meeting in September 2018).

The value of the Authority's Property, Plant and Equipment, as at 31st March 2018 was as follows:

Property, Plant and Equipment	£000 as at 31 March 2018
Vehicles, plant and equipment (incl Heritage Asset)	6,592
Land and buildings	25,139
Assets under construction	1,080
Total fixed assets	**32,811**

1.2   Whilst the Plans all have a medium-term (three to four year) timescale to align with the Authority's Community Risk Management and Medium Term Financial Planning framework, they are subject to an annual review and updating process.

1.3 The suite of Asset Management Plans produced in 2017/18 were approved by the Corporate Services Policy and Challenge Group in June 2017, in line with its terms of reference. The Asset Management Strategy was updated in March 2018, reviwed by the CSP&CG and recommended to the FRA for approval. There are no changes proposed to the strategy and it is therefore not attached to this report.

1.4 This paper presents for consideration and endorsement by CSP&CG updated Asset Management Plans for Fleet and Transport (presented with a summary paper) and Information and Communications Technology (ICT changes from previous year highlighted in yellow) attached at appendices A and B.

1.5 The Asset Plan for Land and Buildings is scheduled to be presented to the CSP&CG in September 2018.

2. <u>Contents of the Asset Management Plans</u>

2.1 The detailed Asset Management Plans (Fleet and Transport and ICT and Land & Buildings) underpin the Asset Management Strategy. Whilst the detailed format and layout of each of the plans differs to reflect the differences in the types of assets covered, all are based on recognised best practice and Central Government guidance on public sector asset management. All contain:

- comprehensive information on the current assets within each group;
- a review of the relevant policies, practices and responsibilities for asset management;
- the wider strategic planning context and corporate priorities within which the plans have been developed and key changes planned over the medium-term;
- a focus on asset related performance measurement and management;
- capital and revenue expenditure implications of planned programmes of replacement, repair and maintenance;
- reviews of achievement over the past year and forward looking action plans for the next year and beyond.

3. <u>Organisational Risk Implications</u>

3.1 The use of the Asset Management Plans forms a crucial tool in minimising the risk of the Authority's major assets failing to support its overall aims, objectives and priorities and thus failing to support efficient and effective delivery of services to the community.

3.2 Establishing suitability of the current asset base, identifying future changes in Service need and monitoring the performance of assets is central to effective forward planning and ensuring assets support the service delivery requirements arising from Authority's strategic priorities and Community Risk Management Plan.

3.3 Good Practice guidance issued by Central Government continues to place ever increasing importance on effective public sector asset management in order to improve on efficiency and the better delivery of services. This philosophy was reinforced by both the national Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Comprehensive Area Assessment frameworks, which required Local Authorities to demonstrate that asset management arrangements were in place that allowed them to plan and improve upon the corporate use of major asset groups. Although these national audit frameworks have now ceased, a focus on robust and effective asset management across all public sector organisations remains core to the current Government's strategy for delivering significant reductions in public spending.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The Asset Management Plans are essential tools in assisting the targeting of financial resources in the most efficient and effective way. They provide supporting information that enables the prioritisation of both capital and revenue expenditure on each of the asset groups to feed into the Authority's Medium-Term Financial Plan.

4.2 The focus on performance management of assets plays a crucial role towards the Authority's aims of securing measurable efficiency, effectiveness and value for money in delivery of its services.

5. Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Assessments will be picked up by each of the plans as and when necessary. For example, prior to the commencement of building works in the Capital Programme.

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