

Asset Stewardship Report 2012/13

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact John Redmond, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201 or Andrew Kelcey, Head of Resources, on 01743 260240.

1 Purpose of Report

This report advises of the current condition of assets owned by the Authority and changes, which have occurred in the financial year 2012/13. This is a summary of information previously provided in the form of budget working papers, capital appraisals and capital budget reports, together with additional information.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is requested to note the current asset position.

3 Property

There have been no purchases or sales of land or property.

Property needs are clearly defined within an asset management plan for property. In addition a capital investment and revenue maintenance programme has been established in support of this plan.

Although the Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) process has not previously identified any redundant sites, Members will appreciate that the 2020 / IRMP process going forward will include consideration of the closure of four fire stations.

The Service is attempting to maintain its buildings at the agreed level of *'safe, legally compliant and no further deterioration'*. At this level there is no significant backlog of maintenance for these assets. Due to budget restrictions property maintenance budgets have, however, been cut, and this is apparent through deterioration, particularly to external decoration.

These savings are manageable in the short-term, but review will be required, if the Authority's assets are not to deteriorate in the longer term.

4 Operational Vehicles

Three 3,000 litre pumping appliances were delivered in August 2012. They are now in use at Bishop's Castle, Cleobury Mortimer and Newport. 3 Sabres have been disposed of.

A Toyota Hilux based 4-wheel drive unit, partially funded by an Environment Agency grant, and including firefogging and environmental protection equipment, has been provided at Minsterley. A Land Rover based pump has been disposed of.

All vehicles are maintained in accordance with Chief Fire Officers Association best practice guidance and there is no backlog of maintenance for these assets.

5 Non-Operational Vehicles

Three vans used by the Resources team have been replaced. A Clio van has been written off and not replaced.

6 Other Assets

New and upgraded road traffic collision equipment has been purchased for use on the new Bishop's Castle appliance. There have been no significant changes in other assets. There is no backlog of maintenance for these assets.

7 Financial Implications

This report is the annual review of the Fire Authority's assets to ensure that they are being used cost effectively.

8 Legal Comment

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

9 Initial Impact Assessment

This report is purely an update on Authority's assets. An Initial Impact Assessment has not, therefore been completed.

10 Appendix

Summary of Fire Authority Property Assets

11 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.

Summary of Fire Authority Property Assets

Location	Suitability for Purpose		DDA* Compliant	Training Facilities	Surplus Assets	Other Uses
Albrighton	Yet to be refurbished. Generally in good condition but does not have adequate office facilities, showers or disabled access	☹️	Part	Tower	None	
Baschurch	Yet to be refurbished. Does not have adequate office facilities, showers or disabled access	☹️	Part	Tower	None	
Bishop's Castle	Fully refurbished and meets needs	☺️	Full	Tower built 2010	Some grassed land could be made available, but is subject to restrictions, including Tree Preservation Orders.	

Location	Suitability for Purpose		DDA* Compliant	Training Facilities	Surplus Assets	Other Uses
Bridgnorth	Fully refurbished and meets needs	☺	Full	Tower built 2011	None Note: the adjacent ambulance station has recently been sold into private ownership.	Regularly used by Youth Offending Teams and community safety partnerships.
Church Stretton	Refurbished and meets most needs, but additional office and storage accommodation to be provided	☺	Full	None (tower not in use). Planning permission obtained for replacement	None	
Cleobury Mortimer	Fully refurbished and meets needs	☺	Yes	Tower, confined space	Site is larger than required, but when assessed in 2007 cost of works to release exceeded value	
Clun	Refurbished and meets most needs, but additional training, office and storage accommodation to be provided	☹	Full	None (tower not in use). Planning permission obtained for replacement	None	

Location	Suitability for Purpose		DDA* Compliant	Training Facilities	Surplus Assets	Other Uses
Craven Arms	Refurbished and extended in 2008 to provide accommodation for a specialist pumping unit	☺	Full	Tower built 2011	Site considered larger than required, but when assessed in 2007 cost of works to release exceeded value. Space has now been used to improve training facilities.	
Ellesmere	Refurbished and meets most needs, but additional office and storage accommodation to be provided.	☺	Full	Tower	None	Has been used by Market Towns Initiative Manager, but not currently used
Hodnet	Yet to be refurbished. Does not have adequate office facilities, showers or disabled access	☹	Part	Tower	None	Regularly used by Youth Offending Teams
Ludlow	Fully refurbished and meets needs	☺	Full	BA building, RTC compound	None	Previously occupied by West Midlands Ambulance Service but not now used

Location	Suitability for Purpose		DDA* Compliant	Training Facilities	Surplus Assets	Other Uses
Market Drayton	Fully refurbished and meets needs	☺	Full	Tower	None	Previously occupied by West Midlands Ambulance Service but not now used
Minsterley	Fully refurbished and meets needs.	☺	Full	Tower	None	
Much Wenlock	Refurbished and meets most needs, but additional training, office and storage accommodation to be provided	☹	Full	None (tower not in use). Planning permission obtained for replacement	None	Local Broadplace centre, providing community internet access
Newport	Fully refurbished and meets needs	☺	Full	Tower	None	
Oswestry	Fully refurbished and meets needs	☺	Full	BA building	None	Used for community activities, including whist drives etc.
Prees	Fully refurbished and meets needs	☺	Full	BA building	None	

Location	Suitability for Purpose		DDA* Compliant	Training Facilities	Surplus Assets	Other Uses
Wem	Fully refurbished and meets needs	☺	Full	Tower built 2011	None	
Whitchurch	Fully refurbished and meets needs	☺	Full	None (tower not in use). Planning permission obtained for replacement	None	
Shrewsbury (Station, Headquarters and Workshops)	Fully refurbished and meets needs	☺	Yes	BA building	None	
Telford (Station and Training Centre)	Meets basic needs but is very poor standard. Refurbishment was planned for 2012/13	☹	Part	BA building, Tower, RTC compound. Real Fire facilities on site	Large areas of the building are underutilised. Investigations into possible use of this space have identified this as not being cost effective.	

Location	Suitability for purpose	DDA Compliant	Training Facilities	Surplus Assets	Other Uses
Tweedale	Fully refurbished and meets needs. Heating costs are excessive following conversion from RDS station and capital funding had been identified for improvement works. This project is on hold awaiting clarification of future crewing in the Telford area.	☺	Full	Tower	Large grassed areas, but of limited development potential due to low land values in this area, forming part of Telford's Green Network and need to relocate the station on the site. Note: the adjacent ambulance station has recently been sold into private ownership.
Wellington	Meets needs with some high and low quality areas. Capital scheme to complete refurbishment agreed, to include new appliance bay doors and biomass heating system. Disabled access will still not be possible.	☹	No	Tower	None

*DDA – Disability Discrimination Act