

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LOCAL INNOVATION FUND**"Doing things differently in neighbourhoods to make better places to live"****PROPOSAL FORM****WARD** Aston**INNOVATION****TITLE** Aston Community Fire Station, Fire Service Heritage Centre and Library Service.

Innovations have to meet the LIF priorities and add value to the City wide core priorities listed below.

(Tick all those that apply)

City Core Priorities

- **Children - a Great City to Grow Up In** ☒
- **Jobs & Skills** ☐
- **Housing for Birmingham** ☐
- **Health** ☐

LIF Priorities

- **Citizens' Independence & Well Being** ☒
- **New approaches to investment** ☒
- **Active citizens & communities stepping up** ☒
- **Clean streets** ☐
- **Improving local centres** ☒

What is your innovative idea and how does it show collaborative, partnership working and active citizenship?

The Aston Fire Service Heritage Group is an enthusiastic constituted volunteer group who work in partnership with and are supported by West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS). The group is made up of retired firefighters and volunteers of all ages and backgrounds, who share an interest in fire service history, and in particular the evolution of the fire service in the West Midlands.

The group have been working closely with WMFS to develop a proposal to create a Fire Service heritage centre, as part of a wider development scheme for the grade II listed station located on Ettington Road, Aston. The group are looking to develop a community focused group and link in with other local partnership organisations, and further develop its relationship with WMFS.

The scheme proposal will provide opportunities for community engagement through offering community meeting rooms and developing the innovation of a Fire Service Heritage Centre which will help to educate visitors of all ages in the local community and help to prompt the Fire Services core values of fire safety and wellbeing, which will be supported by WMFS.

As part of this development proposal Aston Library has expressed an interest in being part of this collaborative innovation by utilising areas on the ground floor and providing a Tier 3 Library.

As part of the scheme an innovative Fab Lab that would see state of the art digital manufacturing equipment including 3D printers is also proposed.

What is a Fab Lab?

A small-scale workshop offering digital fabrication. It's an open access, not for profit, community resource where anybody can invent and make just about anything.

What is in a Fab Lab?

An evolving array of flexible computer controlled machines that allow you to invent, make and share. It's a great resource for entrepreneurs to try out new ideas.

Working in partnership with the Heritage Volunteers it would make Aston a go to destination for all ages and would also compliment the school activities that Eastside safety unit provide.

The key aspirations for the Heritage Volunteers are:

- Support the local community to achieve their goals by providing facilities that can be used for community groups and making the Fire Station a community hub.
- Exploit the grade II listed building by providing a fire service heritage centre which will be open to the public, small groups and schools. This will encourage people of all ages to visit Aston fire station to see how a modern day fire service operates, as well as getting an understanding of how the fire service was first established in Birmingham and how it has developed over the years to become the third largest fire and rescue service in the UK.
- Many items in the collection are rare and very valuable and this would provide an opportunity for the volunteers to provide tours to showcase the collection.
- Encourage community involvement and promote fire safety and wellbeing for all.
- The Volunteers will also work with the Library to promote their service and enhance the hours by opening the Library space in a volunteer mode.
- Provide a unique visitor experience through the heritage museum with special and diverse events being held at the station.

The Heritage Volunteers have recently held open days at Aston Fire Station to engage with the community to get their opinions on the proposal and the innovative ideas that really support the scheme being a key focal point for the local community.

Key benefits of the project:

- The Heritage Volunteers will support the local community.
- Provide an educational experience with interactive displays.
- Provide a state of the art Fab Lab with 3D printing to support jobs, skills and innovation in the ward with Volunteering opportunities.
- Working in partnership with the library service to extend the current library offer from 10.5 hours per week to a possible five-day opening.
- Working with the leaders from the local mosque to promote religious events
- WMFS are also looking to form a Fire cadets group in Aston to provide education, learning and development, which will also be supported by the Heritage Group.
- Free use of a community meeting rooms that can be used by local groups.
- Supporting the local community by offering fire safety advice.
- Improve the quality of life through innovation and education.
- Help to promote and improve wellbeing of the local community.

- Provide a community café and meeting point.
- Provide a safe space for networking and personal development
- Hot desking opportunities

Sustainability

- Support from WMFS to fund the refurbishment of the space and provide community space for groups to use.
- Café income
- Fab Lab subscription to schools and local organisations
- Heritage lottery bid
- Working in conjunction with Eastside to offer a unique visitor experience

In summary, the LIF funding will help us make a real difference to enhance the heritage centre and Library to create interactive displays for visitors to showcase the fire services heritage and library. This we feel will benefit the residents in the Aston ward. The community facility will be multi-purpose for groups to use and will develop in response to the changing community needs. Providing safer neighbourhoods and recreational facilities for local families.

Time Frame – is it:-

One off event/programme

Implement and complete within 6 months (2016)

Implement and complete within 12 months (2017)

X

December 2017 – March 2018 : Carry out further development of the proposal through community engagement and locally formed working groups.

March 2018 – going forward: work will start to put the plan in place and engaging through social media

How will the innovation be implemented?

The innovation will be implemented through the heritage group, WMFS, Library Service and other interested parties forming a working group with other community associations who support the proposal. The group will attend partnership meeting with other key stakeholders on a quarterly basis to feedback to partners and residents on the current outcomes and achievements of the project deliverables.

What outcomes will the proposal achieve? What will success look like and how will its impact be measured? How will you ensure legacy/ continuation and what learning will the project provide?**key aspirations:**

- Support the local community to achieve their goals by providing facilities that can be used for community groups and making the Fire Station a community hub.
- Exploit the grade 2 listed building by providing a fire service heritage centre which will be open to the public, small groups and schools. This will encourage people of all ages to visit Aston fire station to see how a modern day fire service operates, as well as getting an understanding of how the fire service was first established in Birmingham and how it has developed over the years to become the third largest fire and rescue service in the UK.
- Many items in the collection are rare and very valuable and this would provide an opportunity for the volunteers to provide tours to showcase the collection.
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Key benefits:

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- Working with the leaders from the local mosque to promote religious events
- Creating Fire service cadets group in Aston to provide education, learning and development
- Free use of a community meeting rooms that can be used by local groups
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- Improve the quality of life through innovation and education
- Help to promote and improve wellbeing of the local community
- Provide a community café
- Provide a safe space for networking and personal development
- Hot desking opportunities

Legacy will be ensured by the relationship the Heritage Volunteers, Library Service have with WMFS and the support of the long-term future of the Aston Fire Station and the space provided for partnering groups located there.

Have you considered other sources of funding and whether the project can be used to leverage further funding from elsewhere (please specify funding sources)?

What resources will be required?

- Capital
- Running costs
- People power volunteers

£
30000

Amount required from LIF £.....30000.....

Have you got any match funding – in cash or in kind?

Yes the regeneration of the firestation is a multi-million pound project.

Heritage Lottery Bid currently been investigated.

Volunteers hours

Contact person for proposal

Name Mark Burston.....

Telephone 07973810354.....

E-mail mark.burston@wmfs.net.....

Which residents or community groups was the proposal discussed with and when (please give details of any meetings and which councillors attended)?

Discussed at

Ward meeting

Date

Signatures of all 3 Ward Councillors

Name Muhammad Afzal Signature [Signature] Date

Name ZIAUL ISLAM Signature [Signature] Date

Name NAGINA KAWER Signature [Signature] Date 30-11-17

Internal use only

Received: Date

Go to Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership for decision: Date

Approved

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>