

NFCC PSDS Workshop (27th September 2022)

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service Case Study

General Information:

Small FRS - 14 sites, all with stations – 23 traditional buildings
Mature estate – majority built 1950s to 1970s
HQ at Kempston
Fire Safety Training Centre at Luton

PSDS Phase 3

- Phase 3 application submitted September 2021 window
- Engaged a consultant for calculations and application support and assistance
- No project team – lone project
- £593k awarded

5 buildings chosen based on existing end of life heating & HW plant:

- Ampthill CFS (retained) 1950s
- Leighton Buzzard CFS (day crewed) 1970s
- Stopsley SFS (whole time) 1980s
- Northern Area Office (Bedford-based fire safety team) 1960s
- Southern Area Office (Luton-based fire safety team) 1960s

All to receive:

- Air Source Heat Pumps
- LED Lighting
- Wall Insulation

Lessons & Pitfalls:

Disappointingly the decision was made to abandon the project, and the application withdrawn before contract direct award via a framework – discretion being the better part of valour

- Changing estates strategy proposals and options at senior level during the application process and after GOL causing project scope uncertainties – options appraisals and feasibility studies now to be undertaken following a recent Emergency Cover Review
- No project team allocated to support in the early stages and resource issues
- No early-stage procurement activity, (not their fault)
- Process frustrated by errors in the application form format
- Use of a different consultant up-front requiring a second design phase post-award and after the procurement stage and contract award
- Very significant difference between grant award and estimated contract sum
- Back-end loaded process would have left little time for design phase after contract award
- Projected delivery timeline would have led to over-run and financial risk

No phase 3b application being progressed for reason 1 – estates strategy decisions