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This circular is	For action	By	22 July 2005
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	Bidding for the Invest to Save Budget		

Invest to Save Budget – Round 8

Issued by:

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Fire Service Improvement Team

Addressed to:

The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Clerk to the Fire and Civil Defence Authority
The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Civil Defence Authority
The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer

Please forward to:

Treasurers
Directors of Finance

Summary

HM Treasury announced details of a further Invest to Save bidding round towards the end of last month. Fire and rescue authorities are eligible to apply and bids are due in on 22 July 2005.

For further information, contact:

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1.0 Invest to Save

- 1.1 HM Treasury announced in April its intention to hold a further bidding round for authorities to submit proposals for Invest to Save projects. Details of the process were announced towards the end of last month. The emphasis this time is on 'projects that support the development of energy action plans, improve energy efficiency in public buildings, and raise staff awareness of the cost savings from energy efficiency...alongside projects that aim to increase access to arts and cultural events'. Details of the criteria and bidding guidance, together with Q&As, can be found at <http://www.isb.gov.uk/hmt.isb.application.2/index.asp>.
- 1.2 Fire and rescue authorities are eligible to bid. There is usually a lot of competition for the £40m pot of funding although one or two Fire and Rescue Service projects have been successful in bidding in past years. You might want to consider potential ideas for projects which meet the criteria, particularly projects relating to energy efficiency. Some recent ideas that have been taken forward by FRAs outside of Invest to Save include:
- Richmond Fire Station successfully took forward a solar energy project in which solar panels were installed to produce 23 kW per year and any surplus was sold to the National Grid for a nominal sum
 - Cornwall proposes to use the latest design techniques to provide an energy-efficient and user-friendly joint service centre building. One of the innovative features of this will be a living sedum roof. This has a number of benefits, including: reduced heat loss from the building in winter; reduction of internal building temperature during summer; reduction in energy costs; benefits for wildlife; removal of carbon dioxide and absorption of pollutants from the air
 - Tyne and Wear has a new fire station which includes a frontage with a 24 hour display screen (funded through an Arts Council grant) showing slides devised by artists and with fire safety messages.
- 1.3 The submission date is 22 July 2005 and Expressions of Interest should be emailed to: lq.isb@odpm.gsi.gov.uk. Please let me or Kate Hepher (020 7944 8895) know if you do intend to submit a bid or want to discuss any proposals and copy us in on any Expressions of Interest.

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Fire Service Improvement Team