

MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY		
DATE:	11 TH NOVEMBER 2021	REPORT NO:	CFO/059/21
PRESENTING OFFICER	IAN CUMMINS, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & PROCUREMENT		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	HYWYN PRITCHARD	REPORT AUTHOR:	HYWYN PRITCHARD
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	RUTH BALLER-WILSON		
TITLE OF REPORT:	CONTRACT AWARD FOR STRUCTURAL FIRE GLOVES		
APPENDICES:	NONE		

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members the North West Fire and Rescue Procurement Group invited tenders for the supply of firefighter leather fire gloves.
2. As the potential value of orders over the life of the contract may exceed £250,000 the Authority is required to approve the award of the contract.

Recommendation

3. That Members approve the award of a framework agreement on behalf of North West Fire and Rescue Authorities with Bennetts Safetywear Limited for the supply of firefighter leather fire gloves.

Introduction and Background

4. The North West Fire and Rescue Procurement Group (Merseyside, Manchester, Cumbria, Cheshire, Lancashire, Isle of Mann and Northern Ireland fire and rescues services) have been co-ordinating the specification for the supply of firefighter leather fire gloves.
5. The specification ensured the gloves met the highest standards required to ensure firefighter safety and that suppliers can deliver the required range and scope of products to reflect a diverse workforce so all firefighters' needs are met.
6. A notice was published by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service in the Official Journal of the European Union inviting tenders for the stated commodities on 20th December 2019. Bids were received by the end of February 2020 and considered by the North West Fire and Rescue Technical and Procurement Officers' Group.
7. From the 5 pairs of gloves submitted, two pairs failed specification, one pair did not progress beyond the desk top evaluation and two pairs of gloves were taken to

wearer trials. The suppliers of the gloves that failed specification were advised that their tender had been deselected. An independent consultant's services were used during the evaluation phase.

8. The consultant's wearer trials report was received at the end of September. Scores from the desktop evaluation, wearer trials and pricing were weighted and the preferred bidder was identified.
9. Information was shared with the Technical and Procurement Officer Groups on the 13th of October 2021. Evaluations and feedback were provided to the unsuccessful supplier on the same day as well as informing the successful supplier of the intent to award subject to Authority approval.

Equality and Diversity Implications

10. The North West Fire and Rescue Technical and Procurement Officers' Group in determining the scope of the tender and the needs of individual fire and rescue services has ensured suppliers can deliver the required range and scope of products to reflect a diverse workforce so all firefighters' needs are met.

Staff Implications

11. The specification and evaluation of supplier products has taken into account the current highest level of fire standards required, this is to ensure that firefighter safety is a major consideration in determining what product and what supplier is chosen.

Training Implications

12. The use of firefighting PPE forms part of business as usual and as such there are no new training implications with the use of the proposed gloves.

Legal Implications

13. The tender exercise has been conducted in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

14. The MFRA uniform and clothing budget, £293k, contains adequate provision to meet the cost of the current and future purchase of the Service's firefighters' Fire Glove requirements.
15. Value for money can be demonstrated as an openly advertised competitive exercise has been conducted.
16. The combined value of call-off contracts derived from the framework agreement is expected to be approximately £600,000.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

17. The standard selection questionnaire was included as part of the process. The Specification document included standards that bidders were required to meet in order to progress in the evaluation.

18. The contract has clauses that

18.1. manage risk including provisions for insurance as well as indemnity and liability

18.2. addresses health and safety and

18.3. relates to environmental protection

Contribution to Our Vision: *To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.*

Our Purpose: *Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.*

19. By supplying the best firefighter PPE and equipment it will contribute to making MFRS the best service in the UK.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

PPE Personal protective equipment