

BRIEFING NOTE

MEETING OF THE:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE		
DATE:	16 DECEMBER 2021	REPORT NO:	CFO/070/21
PRESENTING OFFICER	IAN CUMMINS, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & PROCUREMENT		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	HYWYN PRITCHARD 0151 296 4556	REPORT AUTHOR:	HYWYN PRITCHARD
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	RUTH BALLER-WILSON		
TITLE OF REPORT:	CONTRACT AWARD FOR STRUCTURAL FIRE GLOVES		

APPENDICES:	NONE	
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Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members that the North West Fire and Rescue Procurement Group invited tenders for the supply of firefighter structural textile fire gloves. 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

2. That Members approve the award of a framework agreement on behalf of North West Fire and Rescue Authorities with FlamePro Global Limited for the supply of wholly textile fire gloves.

Introduction and Background

1. 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 various firefighting PPE. The specification looks at ensuring the PPE meets 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.
2. 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.
3. From the 3 pairs of gloves submitted, two pairs failed compatibility and the remaining pair underwent MFRS wearer trials in its Training and Development Academy.
4. Notification was received on 15th of November stating that there were no issues with the gloves and so a contract could be awarded. The successful supplier

was notified on the following day of the intent to award subject to Authority approval.

Equality and Diversity Implications

5. 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

6. 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

7. 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

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

Financial Implications & Value for Money

9. The approved budget contains adequate provision to meet the cost of the current and future purchase of the Service's firefighters' Fire Glove requirements. Currently MFRS procure the leather structural fire gloves however, the textile gloves proposed under this contract represents an alternative that may or may not be used by MFRS, or indeed any other FRS eligible to access the agreement, in the future.
10. Value for money can be demonstrated as an openly advertised competitive exercise has been conducted.
11. The combined value of call-off contracts derived from the framework agreement is estimated to be in the order of £530,000 for all eligible contracting authorities for the agreement's entire term.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

12. The following actions have been taken to manage risk. 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.

13. The contract has clauses that:

- a. manage risk including provisions for insurance as well as indemnity and liability
- b. addresses health and safety and
- c. 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.

14. 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

ARA	Any Relevant Acronyms used in the report or technical terminology
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment