

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE		
DATE:	23 MARCH 2023		CFO/69/22
PRESENTING OFFICER:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER PHIL GARRIGAN		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	AM GED SHERIDAN	REPORT AUTHOR:	COLETTE DUNNE
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	HYWYN PRITCHARD, TOM HIRONS, RIA GROVES, STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	ALLSTAR FUEL CARD CONTRACT UNDER NEW CCS FRAMEWORK RM6186.		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A :	EIA ALL STAR FUEL CARD CONTRACT
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Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members that Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's (MFRA) current fuel card provision requires updating and a new contract to be implemented

Recommendation

2. That Members approve the award of a 3 year contract to Allstar Business Solutions Limited for the provision and management system of fuel cards under Crown Commercial Services RM6186 framework for all Emergency Services.

Introduction and Background

Current Fuelling procedures

3. Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) predominately uses diesel vehicles at present.
4. There are 2 means of obtaining fuel for MFRS Vehicles: -

4.1 MFRS Above Ground Diesel Tanks 8 sites

- a) There are 8 sites that have above ground diesel fuel tanks and all other sites would use fuel cards. Service vehicles (non blue lights) are encouraged to use MFRS tanks.
- b) The fuel supplied to the MFRS tank is a separate contract.

- c) All the front line blue light response vehicles are diesel and the MFRS 8 diesel fuel tanks provide resilience in bunkered fuel supplies under our Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
- d) MFRS obtained approval from MFRA on 19/10/2017 (report No CFO/71/17) to decommission the old underground tanks and to upgrade 8 above ground diesel tanks with a computerised fuel management system. The 8 tanks started to go live between 5/3/2019 - 17/5/2019 and electronic fuel tank transactional data was available. The Fuel Cards usage started to increase from this point.

4.2 Allstar Fuel Cards

- a) Allstar provide an online management system which holds all transactional data. The system provides the Manager to order/cancel/hotlist fuel cards, obtain invoices and payments status, plus run reports on the cards and transactional data.
- b) The Allstar fuel cards are used to purchase diesel, unleaded, adblue, alternative fuels and electric vehicle charging.
- c) Unleaded is purchased for Marine Rescue Unit Boats, Search and Rescue Boats and plant/operational equipment.
- d) MFRS vehicles and fire appliances are predominately diesel engines at present. Alternative options are now being considered and planned in the replacement programme for general service vehicles. The Allstar Fuel card is suitable for our long term requirements as MFRS works towards Zero Net.

Proposal for New Fuel Card Contract

- 5. A new CCS Framework for all Emergency Services is now available under RM6186 that is replacing the current CCS Framework RM6000 which MFRA's current contract is under and due to expire on 31/03/23. A new direct award contract is required to provide a longer-term commitment. Due to the rising fuel costs at present and the increased use of Fuel Cards the contract is of a high value (£226,000 per year) therefore approval is sought from Members.
- 6. Under this new CCS contract framework Allstar is still the main supplier of a Fuel Card that can be used anywhere with an online management system. Other suppliers on the framework do not meet our specification as have limited petrol station coverage or have charges as a credit card style card. The Allstar fuel card can also be used for electric and alternative fuel vehicle transactions, so this provide future proofing as Emergency Services move towards Zero Net.
- 7. MFRS have been using Allstar Fuel Cards and online management system since 2010 with excellent service and require to continue this provision.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. There are no equality implications with the Allstar fuel cards and contract. EIA submitted.

Staff Implications

9. There are no staff implications with new contract. The postholder will continue to manage the Allstar Fuel Cards online system.
10. MFRS users will see no change as continue to use Allstar Fuel Cards as normal. The majority of cards have an expiry date to 3/24.

Training Implications

11. There are no training implications as the Allstar Fuel Card online system will continue with no interruptions or changes.

Legal Implications

12. The procurement process has been carried out under an Emergency Services framework with CCS. Leading FRS is Devon & Somerset FRS.
13. Allstar Fuel Cards can be utilised for alternative fuel vehicles which is in line with the Governments Road to Zero Strategy and the 2030 legislation.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

14. The advantages of all Emergency Services under the same contract provides the best value of money for MFRS. Due to the volumes of all Emergency Services under this contract it provides discount savings on diesel volumes, reduced card charges, no transaction fees, card can be used for alternative fuels. During part of the Covid-19 period Emergency Services used their Allstar Fuel Cards at BP Petrol stations to obtain free fuel.
15. The total spend with Allstar using Fuel Cards in 2021/22 was £225,971.77 as:-

Adblue	£ 18,895.63
Unleaded	£ 1,253.23
Diesel	£205,840.90

The contract will run for 3 years (1/4/2023 to 31/3/2026) with an estimated total spend of £678,000 based on current fuel prices and can be contained within the current fuel budget.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

16. The Allstar fuel card can also be used for electric and alternative fuel vehicle transactions so this provide positive environmental impact towards Zero Net.
17. All vehicles registered after 1/1/15 within the MFRS fleet must meet Euro 6 emission standards. The appliances purchased over the last financial year by MFRS have an integrated Euro 6 silencer which contains a full-flow particulate filter which features continuous regeneration and two parallel SCR catalysts with a unique high-precision Adblue dosage system. The Allstar Fuel card allows for purchases in Adblue.

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.*

18. MFRS are receiving best value for money with the fuel card contract by collaboration with Emergency Services.
19. MFRS employees are provided with the efficient means of fuelling by Fuel Cards in additional to the MFRS Diesel Tanks.
20. Allstar provide electronic fuel card data so this can be analysed with the electronic MFRS Tank transactions and assess vehicle efficiency and whole life costs.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[HTTPS://WWW.CROWNCOMMERCIAL.GOV.UK/AGREEMENTS/RM6186](https://www.crowncommercial.gov.uk/agreements/rm6186)

CFO 71 17 DERV TANK DECOMMISSIONING AND UPGRADE PROGRAMME

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRS	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
MFRA	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
CCS	Crown Commercial Services