

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	BUDGET AUTHORITY		
DATE:	27 FEBRUARY 2025	REPORT NO:	CFO/90/25
PRESENTING OFFICER	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, NICK SEARLE		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	AREA MANAGER PAUL MURPHY	REPORT AUTHOR:	STATION MANAGER MARK EVANS
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	HYWYN PRITCHARD, PAUL HITCHEN, MARK BALDWIN, STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	PROCUREMENT OF USAR FIRST RESPONSE VEHICLES (ND2)		

APPENDICES:	NONE
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Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the outcome of the procurement exercise for the provision of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) First response Vehicles (FRV) and seek Members approval to award the contract to Angloco Limited for the National Resilience New Dimension 2 project

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members approve the award of the contract for the procurement of the First Response Vehicle's to Anglice Limited.

Introduction and Background

3. As Lead Authority for National Resilience, officers from the Authority have been working with Home Office colleagues on identifying replacements for the current National Resilience fleet. There are currently 19 Urban Search and Rescue teams across England with assets that are in need of replacement.
4. The USAR replacement has been split into several phases dependant on Home Office financing with the introduction of the FRV being the first phase of the USAR New Dimensions 2 (ND2) project. By creating a vehicle based on the same chassis as a 'Type B' fire appliance, several manual handling issues have been removed from the deployment process allowing for a faster response and quicker deployment time. The FRV is a critical element of the USAR ND2 project and allows for greater flexibility in terms of mobilising and

allows for the reconfiguration of the existing fleet in future phases of the project.

5. The procurement process, including a competitive tender process, aimed to test the market and identify potential suppliers capable of meeting the technical and operational requirements as identified by National Resilience for the new FRV.
6. A tender for the supply of the FRV's was issued on 18th September 2024. The Authority received bids from four suppliers with Angloco Ltd being selected as the preferred bidder.
7. The bid price was for the provision of 19 fully built vehicles to the specification supplied by National Resilience and includes training for operators, drivers and maintenance staff. The inventory is being supplied separately.
8. Due to the value of the bid any contract must be approved by the Authority. If approval of the contract is made to the preferred bidder, the supplier has confirmed the delivery of the FRV's can be met within the Services required timescales.

Equality and Diversity Implications

9. There were two potential implications identified in the equality impact assessment (EIA); pregnancy and disability (dyslexia).
10. Pregnancy was discounted as staff would not be carrying out frontline operational roles/duties from the point that their pregnancy is reported to the service.
11. There is the potential for there to be a positive impact on staff with dyslexia. The control systems and screens on the FRV are customisable and allow for backgrounds and fonts to be used which are easier for people to read thus improving their interaction with the vehicle.

Staff Implications

12. The current process for deploying equipment regularly involves mechanically unloading stillages from modules due to the significant volume and weight of equipment stored in them. With the introduction of the FRV, staff will be able to deploy the vehicle and equipment more efficiently, eliminating the need for mechanical assistance such as a Bobcat.
13. The newly designed stowage system allows staff to access individual items easily using pull-out and drop-down shelves. This design not only reduces deployment time but also enhances safety and minimises physical strain on staff.

By streamlining the process, the FRV significantly improves operational readiness and efficiency.

Legal Implications

14. The procurement exercise undertaken was undertaken with the relevant procurement legislation and contract standing orders in force at the time.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

15. The contract price is £6,422,323.
16. FRV's cost £338,017 per vehicle. The current proposal includes the acquisition of 19 vehicles for the English USAR teams, amounting to a total cost of £6,422,323.
17. Funding for the English FRV's is provided by Home Office as part of the ND2 USAR project phase one.

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

18. Any delay in procurement poses a risk to the additional phases of USAR ND2 as the modules cannot be removed or redesigned until the FRV's are operational. This risk is increasing as the current fleet ages.

Environmental Implications

19. The procurement of FRV's aligns with sustainability goals by introducing newer more efficient vehicles into the national fleet. The FRV's would be Euro 6 compliant and produce fewer harmful emissions than the current Prime Movers.
20. The ability to deploy 6 technicians in 1 vehicle reduces the number of vehicles required to mobilize a USAR unit, thus reducing fuel consumption and the release of emissions.

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.*

21. The implementation of FRV's supports Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service's vision of being the best in the UK by:
 - a) ensuring Readiness: Securing a modern, efficient and reliable fleet ensures that the USAR capability is better equipped to respond effectively.

- b) prioritising Safety: Investing in modern, more capable vehicles and technology, demonstrates the services desire to keep communities safe.
- c) demonstrating Accountability: By utilising a framework and having used a robust procurement process, the Service have demonstrated their commitment to ensuring that the most appropriate and financially responsible option has been selected, reinforcing public trust in the Service's commitment to protection and fiscal responsibility.

22. This approach embodies the Service's commitment to serve, protect, and keep the community safe.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

USAR	U rbain S earch and R escue
FRV	F irst R esponse V ehicle
FRS	F ire and R escue S ervice
MFRA	M erseyside F ire and R escue A uthority
MFRS	M erseyside F ire and R escue S ervice