

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY		
DATE:	15 MAY 2025	REPORT NO:	CFO/98/25
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER NICK SEARLE		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	AREA MANAGER, DAVID WATSON	REPORT AUTHOR:	GROUP MANAGER JON ROSCOE
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER GED SHERIDAN AREA MANAGER DAVE WATSON AREA MANAGER PAUL MURPHY STATION MANAGER MIKE BROADLEY STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM		
TITLE OF REPORT:	PROCUREMENT OF RADIO PACK SETS		

APPENDICES:	NONE
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Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members that the packset radios currently utilised within Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service ('the Service') are due to be replaced as they are at their end of life and advise on the associated recommendations below.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members approve the award of the contract to Radiocom Systems Limited for Motorola Radio packsets for £319,834.

Introduction and Background

3. A packset radio is a fire ground communication device similar to that of a walkie talkie that allows staff to communicate over a large area and inside buildings when dealing with incidents.
4. As the current packset radios utilised within the Service are nearing their end of asset life, as part of the asset refresh Officers sought to review the potential options and procurement processes for replacement sets.
5. Trials of two separate packset radios were undertaken in a variety of locations and scenarios across Merseyside.
6. It was identified that the upgraded version of the current Motorola radio packsets were effective and the upgrade also allowed compatibility with the current equipment which can be utilised alongside the new radio packsets.

7. Alongside the Authority's own requirements to replace the current radio pack sets, as part of the contract it is proposed to also procure radio packsets for National Resilience requirements. Therefore, the contract will exceed the £300,000 limit that requires Authority approval.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. As part of the trial consideration was given to the use and effectiveness of the products for users who may be hearing impaired.

Staff Implications

9. Operational staff were consulted and involved in the trial of the new Motorola packset radios. As the operation of the radios are identical to the current packset radios in use by the Service there are no training or staffing implications.

Legal Implications

10. The route to market under **Lot 1c: Tactical Radio Systems of Network Services 3**, which is Crown Commercial Services' framework agreement (RM6116) for Network Services (3). A direct award of contract to a nominated supplier is allowed under this Lot.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

11. The total estimated cost of the procurement including ancillary equipment for the Authority is £236,166.
12. The additional estimated cost of the contract for National Resilience (NR) is £83,668.
13. Making the total contract worth is an estimated £319,834.
14. The table below shows the financial arrangements in place for MFRS to complete the procurement:

Capital Budget 2025/26 (OPS059) - Fire Ground Equipment	<u>277,500</u>
Total cost including ancillary equipment	236,166
Total forecast costs	<u>236,166</u>
Forecast underspend against capital budget	<u>41,334</u>

15. The NR Capital Budget 2025/26 for this procurement will be from the New Dimensions 2 National Resilience USAR capital funding budget.
16. Significant savings have been made through redistribution of packset radios across the Service.

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

17. The new packset radios have been tested in a variety of environments and scenarios. Risk assessments will be updated to reflect the change in packset radio series. No other changes are required as the radios operate in the same way as the packset radios currently used by the Service.

Environmental Implications

18. The Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) process where a company will harvest precious metals and recycle other elements can be facilitated through either the supplier or Telent, reducing the Service's environmental impact.

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. Procuring best value for money products and making our firefighters safer and more effective at incidents.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

WEEE **W**aste from **E**lectrical and **E**lectronic **E**quipment