

<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>			
<b>MEETING OF THE:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>4 SEPTEMBER 2025</b>	<b>REPORT NO:</b>	<b>CFO/10/2526</b>
<b>PRESENTING OFFICER</b>	<b>CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, NICK SEARLE</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	<b>AREA MANAGER, MARK THOMAS</b>	<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>GROUP MANAGER, GED KNOCK</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>SENIOR PREVENTION MANAGER, JO HENDERSON</b> <b>STATION MANAGER, TIM SELBY</b> <b>PROCUREMENT - HYWYN PRITCHARD/DAN HIRONS</b> <b>FINANCE – NEIL BUSHELL</b> <b>LEGAL – CAROLINE BERRY</b> <b>STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)</b>		
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY OF SMOKE ALARMS</b>		
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	<b>NONE</b>		

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To inform Members of the outcome of the procurement process for the supply of smoke alarms for the Service.
2. To seek approval from Members to award the contract to Fireblitz Extinguisher Ltd on the basis of the outcome of the procurement exercise.

### **Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that Members;
  - a) note the contents of the report; and
  - b) approve the award of the supply of smoke alarms contract to Fireblitz Extinguisher Ltd for a duration of 4 years with an estimated value of £752,500.

### **Introduction and Background**

4. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's ('the Authority') previous arrangement for the provision of smoke alarms was procured utilising a call off contract under a framework led by West Midlands Fire Service. The ability to award a call off contract under the framework expired in May 2025.

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5. Acting as lead authority for the sector, West Midlands Fire Service published a contract notice to conclude a successor framework agreement.
  6. The management of the new framework was undertaken by West Midlands Fire Service as the contracting authority. Following the conclusion of the procurement exercise, Fire Blitz was selected as the preferred provider for smoke alarms as it had achieved the highest overall rank and therefore a call off contract can be awarded under the new framework for the supply of smoke alarms to Fire Blitz.
  7. Reliability and performance issues for Fire Blitz products, as reported by other Fire and Rescue Services and through the Authority's own experience, have been positive as to the products received, thus leading to fewer repeat visits by crews or advocates and thus increasing efficiency while providing a quality product.
  8. The award of a contract for a term of four years allows the Authority to plan its provision of smoke alarms as part of its prevention strategy utilising a proven and reliable product.

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#### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

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9. The contract also has provision for smoke alarms for households that have hearing impaired or visually impaired residents.

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#### **Staff Implications**

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10. The previous supplier of smoke alarms to the Authority was Fire Blitz therefore staff are familiar with the fitting, information and maintenance instructions for Fire Blitz units.

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#### **Legal Implications**

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11. The framework agreement has been concluded by West Midlands Fire Service and is compliant with the Contract Standing Orders and respective legislation.

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#### **Financial Implications & Value for Money**

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12. Value for money has been secured following a competitive process as led by a contracting authority within the sector. The smoke alarms sourced through the new framework include a discounted price which is applied for the first 12 months of the contract.
13. For context, MFRS through its CRMP, conducts a minimum of 50,000 Home Fire Safety Checks and 10,000 Safe and Well visits which combined requires the installation of approximately 35,000 smoke alarm units per annum.
14. The estimated value of the 4-year contract is £752.5k and this can be contained within current budgets.

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**Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications**

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15. Unit reliability will continue to be monitored throughout the term of the contract

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**Environmental Implications**

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16. Units are designed to be disposed of in household recycling as advised on fitting and in included instructions. It is anticipated that reliability of the product will require less safe disposal of alarms therefore minimising the impact on the environment.

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**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.*

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17. A direct contribution to our Vision is to deliver the best service to the community it serves and the installation of such devices in the homes of Merseyside residents who are at the highest risk of fire contributes to this Vision.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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**NONE**

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**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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**MFRS**                      **Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service**