

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE		
DATE:	2 OCTOBER 2025	REPORT NO:	CFO/20/2526
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, NICK SEARLE		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	AREA MANAGER PHILLIP BYRNE, CHRISTOPHER MAN.	REPORT AUTHOR:	STATION MANAGER, MICHAEL BROADLEY
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	AREA MANAGER DAVE WATSON, GROUP MANAGER JON ROSCOE, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT MIKE REA, HEAD OF PROCUREMENT HYWYN PRITCHARD, HEAD OF DATA & TECHNOLOGY, PAUL TERRY, SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER CAROLINE BERRY, APPLICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGER NICK COWLEY, STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)		
TITLE OF REPORT:	AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF TECHNICAL RESCUE CUTTING EQUIPMENT		
APPENDICES:	NONE		

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the outcome of the procurement exercise for the replacement of technical rescue cutting equipment for Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service ('the Service') and National Resilience New Dimensions Two (ND2).

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members;
 - a) note the content of the report; and
 - b) approve the award of contract for technical rescue cutting equipment to Weber Rescue UK LTD at a total cost of £1,648,330.

Introduction and Background

3. The current technical rescue cutting equipment was originally scheduled for replacement between 2025 and 2030.
4. Due to recent operational challenges, including equipment thefts, it is now recommended to replace all 50 sets in a shorter timeframe. This ensures operational resilience, reduces risk from theft, and provides long-term value for money.

5. A competitive tendering process was undertaken through the YPO framework, namely YPO Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) 01110 for Emergency Response and Rescue Equipment under Category 4 - Vehicle Stabilising and Cutting Equipment – RTC - Products / Services. and invitations to tender were sent to 12 potential bidders.
6. The Service required suppliers to demonstrate compliance with national operational standards, compatibility with existing appliance stowage and charging infrastructure, the inclusion of security features to reduce theft risk and improve recovery, and measures to minimise environmental impact while maximising sustainability.
7. The evaluation process included operational testing with staff from across the Service, detailed technical assessment, and a review of supplier support arrangements and warranty terms.
8. Following evaluation, there was one bid received, with Weber Rescue UK Ltd therefore identified as the preferred supplier.
9. In addition to meeting all mandatory requirements, the equipment to be supplied by Weber Rescue UK Ltd provides compatibility with Milwaukee batteries already deployed by the Service, delivering both cost and environmental benefits.
10. The Service currently holds 50 sets of cutting equipment, comprising 1 set per fire appliance (34), 2 enhanced sets on Romeo 2 (SRT), 4 training sets, 4 sets across the Vesty spare appliances, 2 complete sets in emergency stores, and four spare sets held for damage, servicing or theft cover.
11. The new equipment has been assessed for compatibility with existing fleet requirements. Appliances are already fitted with the necessary chargers, and the tools fit within current stowage designs. This means there are no additional fleet implications arising from the proposed procurement.
12. Members will recall the Authority approving the procurement of First Response Vehicle's (FRV's) as part of its role as Lead Authority for National Resilience and the New Dimensions Two (ND2) project. This contract award also includes procurement of the cutting equipment for National Resilience which will be placed on the FRV's to satisfy the project. There will be a total of 20 cutting equipment sets procured for National Resilience.

Equality and Diversity Implications

13. The Equality Impact Assessment for operational equipment has been reviewed as part of this tendering process. No implications have been identified.

Staff Implications

14. The Training and Development Academy will provide training materials and an e-learning module to support introduction, while the geofencing and

immobilisation application will be rolled out with access for designated staff, including Operational Equipment, Area Managers, and Fire Control.

15. The introduction of security features is expected to reduce thefts, thereby addressing a risk to firefighter safety that has been highlighted in recent incidents.

Legal Implications

16. The competitive exercise detailed above is compliant the Authority's Contract Standing Orders and with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
17. The award of contract is subject to legal confirmation.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

18. The total combined cost of the contract for is £1,648,330.
19. This is for 50 complete sets for the Service. An additional 20 sets will be procured for National Resilience New Dimensions Two for utilisation on the FRV's. Each set of equipment is provided with a respective battery set.
20. The procurement cost for the Authority's equipment is £1,104,970 and can be contained within the Medium-Term Financial Plan and will result in a saving of £336,530 over the Medium-Term Financial Plan.
21. The current Capital Programme for hydraulic rescue equipment is as per the table below:

Total Cost	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
£	£	£	£	£	£
1,441,500	441,500	150,000	150,000	350,000	350,000

The revised Capital Programme for hydraulic rescue equipment will need to be rescheduled, with expenditure brought forward and updated as per the table below:

Total Cost	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
£	£	£	£	£	£
1,104,970	1,104,970	0	0	0	0

22. The remaining £543,360 cost is for the National Resilience equipment as part of the National Resilience ND2 project and will be funded by the MHCLG ND2 project.

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

23. The procurement of the new equipment with the security features increases the ability to recover any items stolen due to its tracking facility to avoid total loss with an ultimate solution of remote disablement to prevent unauthorised use. The

pro-active approach supports the reduction in insurance claims and maintains operational availability of equipment. Current risks could impact firefighter safety, operational effectiveness, and public confidence.

Environmental Implications

24. Standardising on Milwaukee batteries reduces procurement and environmental impact, as these batteries have a ten-year design life.

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.*

25. Procuring effective and sustainable rescue equipment enhances firefighter safety, operational effectiveness, and long-term efficiency while ensuring value for money.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA	M erseyside F ire and R escue A uthority
MFRS	M erseyside F ire and R escue S ervice
FRV	F irst R esponse V ehicle
SRT	S earch & R escue T eam
SLT	S trategic L eadership T eam
YPO	Y orkshire P urchasing O rganisation
EIA	E quality I mpact A ssessment
UKRO	U nited K ingdom R escue O rganisation
NR ND2	N ational R esilience N ew D imensions T wo
MHCLG	M inistry of H ousing C ommunities and L ocal G overnment