

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	BUDGET AUTHORITY		
DATE:	26 FEBRUARY 2026	REPORT NO:	CFO/39/2526
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, NICK SEARLE		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	AREA MANAGER, MARK BALDWIN	REPORT AUTHOR:	SENIOR PREPAREDNESS ADMINISTRATION MANAGER, COLETTE DUNNE
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	HEAD OF PROCUREMENT, HYWYN PRITCHARD, PROCUREMENT OFFICER, LORETTA CRANNEY, GROUP MANAGER, PHIL BYRNE, TRANSPORT MANAGER, DAVE SEAMAN, STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)		
TITLE OF REPORT:	BULK FUEL CONTRACT 2026-2028		
APPENDICES:	NONE		

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the outcome of a procurement exercise and to seek authorisation to award a contract for the provision of bulk diesel fuel.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members;
 - a) note the content of this report; and
 - b) approve the award of the contract to Standard Fuels Ltd for the provision of bulk diesel fuel supplies for an estimated contract value of £440,000.

Introduction and Background

3. For the majority of its fleet vehicles, MFRS uses diesel fuel with all fire appliances being diesel engines. MFRS utilises 8 diesel tanks and 2 mobile diesel bowser units to provide operational response fuel resilience under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
4. MFRS has a tank management system to record and monitor all the transactions, gauge readings, activity and deliveries.
5. The current contract for the supply of diesel bulk fuels is due to expire on 31/3/2026.

6. Utilising the CCS framework for the provision of diesel fuel under a new contract was identified as the best route to market. This framework enables procurement by using collective purchasing power through aggregating the volumes required for all public sector customers part of the tender to achieve economies of scale. CCS conducted a further competition under the framework inviting all suppliers on the framework to bid based on the quantities supplied by the public sector customers.
7. CCS evaluated the bids and identified the preferred bidder as Standard Fuel Ltd for the provision of bulk diesel fuel. The estimated contract value for a 2-year contract commencing on 1st April 2026 is £440,000 based on previous consumption levels and the fixed pricing offered by the preferred bidder Standard Fuels Ltd.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. There are no equality and diversity implications arising out of this report.

Staff Implications

9. There are no staff implications with the new contract. The postholders will continue to manage the ordering of bulk fuel and recording on the management system within Ops Preparedness.
10. MFRS users will see no change as bulk fuel will be continued to be delivered as normal.

Legal Implications

11. The procurement process was conducted under a framework with CCS and is compliant with the Authority's Contract Standing Orders and the Public Contracts Regulations as applicable. This ensures a fair and transparent route to market for all suppliers on the framework.
12. MFRS have a statutory duty under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to maintain business continuity arrangements so that critical functions can continue to be delivered. The National Risk Planning assumptions and the Merseyside Resilience Forum Fuel Plan on fuel sets out for Category 1 Responders to plan to be self-reliant in fuel. The 8 Diesel Tanks provides this self-reliance for MFRS.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

13. The total anticipated cost of the contract for the two-year term is £440,000. The costs can be contained within existing budgets.

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

14. All MFRS diesel tanks have been risk assessed, and a maintenance service is carried out annually.

Environmental Implications

15. Diesel Spillage kits are available at all MFRS tank sites and all front-line appliances carry spillage kits.

Contribution to Our Vision:	<i>To be the best Fire & Rescue Service in the UK.</i>
Our Purpose:	<i>Here to serve, Here to protect, Here to keep you safe.</i>

16. MFRS are ensuring fuel business continuity arrangements are in place so critical functions can continue to be delivered for the community they serve.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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