MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**		
DATE:	**19 MARCH 2026**	**REPORT NO:**	**CFO/46/2526**
PRESENTING OFFICER	**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, NICK SEARLE**		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**AREA MANAGER, DAVID WATSON**	**REPORT AUTHOR:**	**NATIONAL RESILIENCE TRAINING MANAGER, SUE TURNER**
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	**HEAD OF PROCUREMENT, HYWYN PRITCHARD, CATEGORY MANAGER, MELISSA HERD, CHRIS NOAKES, NEIL MILWARD, STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)**		
TITLE OF REPORT:	**AWARD OF THE SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT SERVICES CONTRACT**		

APPENDICES:	**NONE**

Purpose of Report

1.   To inform Members of the outcome of the procurement exercise and to seek authorisation to award contracts for Scientific Support Services to enable the delivery of National Resilience (NR) Detection, Identification and Monitoring (DIM) training courses.

Recommendation

2.   It is recommended that Members;

a)   note the contents of the report;

b)   approve the contract award for Lot 1 (DIM1 and DIM2 training courses) to Bureau Veritas UK Limited, for an estimated value of £442,448; and

c)   approve the contract award for Lot 2 to Hazmat Training Limited for a contract value estimated at £307,560.

Introduction and Background

3.   With effect from 1st April 2017, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority assumed responsibility for the management and coordination of the delivery of National Resilience (NR) Skills Acquisition Courses, on behalf of the Home Office (HO) until April 2025 when this responsibility transferred to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

4. NR Training is delivered on a distributed basis, with the continued support of the FRS sector via a sector led cost recovery model. A Training Needs Analysis (TNA) process is carried out for each FRS to determine the requirements for NR Skills Acquisition Courses to ensure KPIs are maintained, and crews remain fit for purpose, to enable a response to large scale emergencies.

5. The Chemical, Biological, Radiation and Nuclear (CBRN(e)) Capability consists of two operational strands: Mass Decontamination (MD), and Detection, Identification, and Monitoring (DIM). The CBRN(e) Capability also provides and supports an interoperability role with Police, Ambulance and Military colleagues. DIM delivers scene assessment in response to a CBRN(e) (or hazmat) incident, as well as support to the MD sector, by providing highly trained personnel and equipment to manage a suspected terrorist or hazmat incident involving unknown substances.

6. The scientific expertise required to deliver DIM training does not exist within the FRS itself, due to the specialist nature of the training. The typical training suite for DIM Advisors consists of 3 key modules; DIM 1, DIM 2, and DIM 3.

7. The contract for the delivery of DIM 1 and DIM 2 training courses for National Resilience expires on the 31st March 2026. The delivery of DIM 3 under a separate contract is also due to expire on the 31st March 2026.

8. To ensure continuance of the training provision remains available to the sector for a national resilience response a procurement exercise was undertaken to enter into a new contract for the provision of the services.

9. Therefore, a further competition via the YPO DPS 999 Training Solutions Framework – Category 4 Hazardous Materials was run. There were two lots identified under the competition; Lot 1 for DIM 1 and DIM 2 training courses and Lot 2 for DIM 3 training courses.

10. One bid was received for Lot 1; DIM 1 and DIM 2 Training Courses and two bids were received for Lot 2; DIM 3 Training Courses

11. The outcome of the evaluation of bids identified the preferred bidders as per below:

    Lot 1: Bureau Veritas UK Limited
    Lot 2: Hazmat Training Limited

Equality and Diversity Implications

12. No EDI implications have been identified from this procurement activity.

Staff Implications

13. Instructors have allocated their time and commitment to support the delivery of courses.

14. Being unable to deliver the courses would affect FRSs in meeting and maintaining KPIs.

15. Training Delivery Partners (TDPs) have scheduled in dates and made the necessary arrangements to host and facilitate courses, i.e. booked out classrooms, training areas, vehicles, PPE.

Legal Implications

16. The procurement and contract management is compliant with Contract Standing Orders and the Public Contract Regulations (2015) by utilising the YPO framework to undertake a further competition for the services.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

17. The funding for the contracts for Lot 1 (£442,448) and Lot 2 (£307,560) are met through the NR Grant, provided by MHCLG.

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

18. Risk and health and safety is managed through the delivery of training under a contract for the services by the preferred bidders.

Environmental Implications

19. There are no environmental implications associated with this contract. The Scientific Provider shall be responsible for the management and disposal of any materials generated during the delivery of the courses and related exercises, in accordance with Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) 2002 regulations.

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.*

20. The training will support the DIM Capability Teams to be fully equipped, and in a state of readiness to enable a response to large scale emergencies. As Lead Authority for National Resilience assisting FRS's to access the requisite training for large scale emergencies supports its purpose to serve and protect the public.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CBRN(e)   **C**hemical, **B**iological, **R**adiation and **N**uclear

DIM   **D**etection, **I**dentification, and **M**onitoring

EDI	**E**quality, **D**iversity & **I**nclusion
HO	**H**ome **O**ffice
KPI	**K**ey **P**erformance **I**ndicator
MD	**M**ass **D**econtamination
MFRA	**M**erseyside **F**ire & **R**escue **A**uthority
MFRS	**M**erseyside **F**ire & **R**escue **S**ervice
MHCLG	**M**inistry of **H**ousing, **C**ommunities and **L**ocal **G**overnment
NR	**N**ational **R**esilience
NRAT	**N**ational **R**esilience **A**ssurance **T**eam
TDP	**T**raining **D**elivery **P**artner
TDA	**T**raining & **D**evelopment **A**cademy
TNA	**T**raining **N**eeds **A**nalysis