MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**		
DATE:	**26 JULY 2018**	**REPORT NO:**	**CFO/051/18**
PRESENTING OFFICER	**DCFO SEARLE**		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**AM PAUL MURPHY**	**REPORT AUTHOR:**	**GM ROB PRITCHARD**
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	**NW PROCUREMENT TEAM, NW OPS EQUIPMENT GROUP, MFRS PROCUREMENT TEAM, MFRS FINANCE TEAM (MFRS COSTS)**		
TITLE OF REPORT:	**AWARDING OF THE REGIONAL CONTRACT FOR STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING KIT**		

APPENDICES:	**APPENDIX A:**	**STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING PPE AND TECHNICAL RESCUE JACKETS**

Purpose of Report

1. To inform MFRA of the completion of the North West tender process for the replacement of the NW Fire Structural Fire kit framework agreement, and request approval to award contract to the preferred bidder.

Recommendation

2. Members are recommended to note the outcome of the tender process and agree the award of contract to the successful supplier.

Introduction and Background

3. Members will be aware of the recommendations outlined in the Authority Budget Meeting report dated 22nd February 2018 (attached). Following this report Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's procurement team has recently led a North West (NW) tender process for structural fire kit. This was a European open tender however only one bidder met the minimum requirements which then went through to user trials held at Washington Hall, Lancashire.

4. All NW services, Isle of Man along with Northern Ireland took part in the trials and were satisfied with the performance of the fire kit supplied.

5. Members may also be aware that MFRA intends to issue 2 sets of structural firefighting kit to all operational staff in the coming months which will alleviate fit and sizing availability issues with relation to gender.

Procurement

6. The MFRA procurement team undertook a European Union (EU) tender process on behalf of the NW FRS's. The aims of the project included: to ensure compatibility with current personal protective equipment and value for money. The potential value of the contract which will run for 4 years could be £800,000 dependent on orders placed by individual services.

7. If approval to award contract is received, MFRA as the lead authority will notify bidders of the outcome and proceed to award of contract.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. There are no E&D implications, the procurement and move to personal issue will allow for better fitting garments for all staff.

Staff Implications

9. There are no staff implications as the tender specification meets all requisite standards and is compatible with current provision.

Legal Implications

10. The procurement process was run compliantly as an EU open tender.

11. The PPE process is subject to Member approval as the contract value will exceed £250,000. The Authority's Constitution Standing Order 19.2(f) requires all those contracts exceeding this value to be approved by the Authority.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

12. The tender process ensured that current kit was compatible with the new provision ensuring no redundant stock.

13. Sufficient funding exists within the £308k clothing reserve and £290k uniform / clothing revenue budget to meet the cost of the new structural fire kit purchase.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

14. The move away from a unisex provision of structural firefighting PPE will ensure male and female firefighters are afforded the best level of fit for their PPE.

15. A full sizing profile exercise will take place prior to issue.

Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters*

16. The recommendations will ensure our staff are provided with PPE which is fit for purpose and provides the highest level of safety when attending incidents within the country - safe effective firefighters.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS