

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority			
Meeting of the:	Authority		
Date:	29 October 2026	Report No:	CFO/18/2627
Presenting Officer:	Chief Fire Officer, Nick Searle		
Responsible Officer:	Area Manager, David Watson	Report Author:	Group Manager, Michael Dale
Officers Consulted:	Head of Procurement, Hywyn Pritchard, Group Manager, Paul Hitchen, HVP Capability Team. Strategic Leadership Team (SLT)		
Title of Report:	New Dimensions 2 Procurement : HVP Support VANS		
Appendices:	None		

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the outcome of the procurement exercise and to seek authorisation to procure High Volume Pump (HVP) Support Vans as part of the New Dimensions 2 (ND2) Programme that supports National Resilience.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members;
 - a) note the contents of the report; and
 - b) approve the award of the contract to Wilker for the supply of HVP Support Vans, at a total contract value of £5,672,284.

Introduction and Background

3. ND2 is a national capability uplift programme that supports National Resilience (NR). The programme is authorised and funded by UK Government via the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority (MFRA) are the Lead Authority for NR. Part of the national capability provides assets for High Volume Pumps (HVP) – Flood Response.
4. The original New Dimensions programme identified and delivered national assets which enhanced the Fire & Rescue response to a range of catastrophic incidents, including natural and deliberate events, and specifically included response to wide area flooding following extreme weather events and other disasters.

5. The HVP Capability currently has 46 HVP first response assets, supported by a number of strategically located support assets. The assets are primarily used to meet the risks and threats from both wide-area flooding and major fires, recent examples being Toddbrook Reservoir to prevent a catastrophic collapse of the dam after heavy rainfall, and in 2014 the Somerset Levels and Thames Valley area floods, where the assets were used extensively. Additionally, although not related to National Resilience, HVPs are often deployed to support local incidents to enhance the water strategy plan.
6. Following a strategic review of the capability, and review of projected requirements to address risk, it has been identified that a HVP Support Van is a major enhancement to the response model.
7. The HVP Support Van will provide seating and welfare for 5 persons alongside transporting the additional pump and ancillary equipment that was previously carried on the second truck thus allowing the operators to switch the pump dependent on incident type.
8. This enhancement to the capability will allow a strategic adaptation to the current mobilising model, and change of fleet footprint.



9. The procurement of the HVP Support Vans forms part of a range of solutions in the wider project of ND2 and will enhance the HVP response capability.
10. The HVP Support Vans will be incorporated into the new HVP set and the strategic deployment has been considered in relation to location availability around the country and to enhance National Resilience.
11. Several options have been considered in the selection of the HVP Support Vans to supplement each HVP set. These included the procurement of smaller vans and the two wheel drive version of the Iveco Daily; however, the preferred option provides the most effective means of supporting the capability going forward.

Equality and Diversity Implications

12. There are no identified equality or diversity implications related to the procurement. The specification ensures it would meet all current operating requirements for the HVP assets.
13. The design and selection ensure safe operation in HVP flood environments, ensuring safety across all personnel roles regardless of background, identity or physical characteristics.

Staff Implications

14. All staff will be required to complete initial training on the HVP Support Vans prior to operational use. It is envisaged the training will be quick and simple to deliver as the HVP Support Vans will be operated in line with current processes and largely use the current ancillary equipment.

Legal Implications

15. The procurement has been undertaken through Lot 10 (Conversion of Bespoke and Specialist Vehicles) of the Government Commercial Agency's RM6244 Framework agreement for the Purchase of Standard and Specialist Vehicles. A further competition was conducted, followed by clarification meetings with both tenderers. The outcome of the procurement exercise is that we are recommending the award of contract, based on the most economically advantageous tender, to Wilker Group who are well placed to deliver our requirements in full

Financial Implications & Value for Money

16. Funding for the HVP Support Vans is provided in full by MHCLG as part of the ND2 HVP project and therefore there are no direct financial implications for the Authority's revenue budget.
17. The procurement of HVP Support Vans has a total cost of £5,672,284.

Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

18. Risk management for the procurement and implementation is monitored and addressed by the ND2 Programme. Standard operating procedures will be developed and assured along with training, and risk assessments completed, prior to mobilisation and operational deployment

Environmental Implications

19. The procurement aligns with environmental protection goals by enhancing the current capability and providing a significantly increased pumping capability. This will assist communities in restoration to normality following extreme weather events.

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 recommendation supports the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service's vision and purpose by allowing crews to respond faster, more effectively, and contribute to the saving of lives. It ensures responder and public safety during complex emergency operations, thereby reducing the impact on communities, and improves resilience and readiness for major incidents.

Background Papers

NONE

Glossary Of Terms

MFRA	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
MFRS	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
ND2	New Dimensions 2 Programme
NR	National Resilience
HVP	High Volume Pump