

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE		
DATE:	21 MARCH 2024	REPORT NO:	CFO/19/24
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, PHIL GARRIGAN		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	GED SHERIDAN	REPORT AUTHOR:	COLETTE DUNNE
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	HYWYN PRITCHARD, TOM HIRONS		
TITLE OF REPORT:	BULK FUEL CONTRACT UNDER NEW CCS FRAMEWORK		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A	EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT
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Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members that Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's current bulk fuel provision requires a new 2-year contract to be implemented

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Members approve the award of a contract, estimated at £500,000, from 1/4/2024 to 31/3/2026 for the provision of bulk fuel supplies under Crown Commercial Services RM6177 framework agreement awarding to Standard Fuels, who is our current supplier.

Introduction and Background

Current MFRS Vehicle Fuelling procedures

3. MFRS predominately uses diesel at present. There are 2 means of obtaining fuel for MFRS Vehicles: -
 - a) MFRS Diesel Tanks (8)
 - i. 8 MFRS above ground diesel tanks are available for use for MFRS service vehicles through a designated RFID access Tag. The Fueltek Tank Management system records all the transactions, gauge readings, activity and deliveries
 - ii. MFRS obtained approval from MFRA on 19/10/2017 (report No CFO/71/17) to decommission the old underground tanks and to upgrade 8 above ground diesel tanks with a computerised fuel management system. The 8 tanks started to go live between 5/3/2019 - 17/5/2019 and electronic fuel tank transactional data was available.
 - b) Allstar Fuel Cards
 - i. Fuel cards are used to purchase diesel, unleaded and adblue, there is scope to use for Electric Vehicles in the future. Fuel

cards are issued to all blue light vehicles and some service vehicles. Allstar provides an online management system with all transactional data and facility to manage cards.

- ii. MFRS obtained approval from MFRA on 23/3/23 (Report No 69 22) of a 3-year Fuel Card Contract (Under CCS RM6186) to Allstar

Background on Bulk Diesel Fuel Contracts for MFRS Diesel Tanks

4. Crown Commercial Services (CCS) provides a National Fuels framework to all UK public sector organisations to arrange their contract and procurement needs. CCS provides weekly pricing publication, ensures service levels, performance indicators and billing requirements are met.
5. The CCS Framework has been used for many years to obtain suppliers to provide bulk diesel fuel delivery service to MFRS. (The previous framework RM3801 National Fuels ran from 24/7/2017 to 24/7/2021)
6. The new framework RM6177 commenced 01/02/2021 and runs to 31/01/2025. Under this framework MFRS awarded the contract to Standards Fuel Oils Ltd which is due to expire 31/3/2024

Proposal for New Bulk Fuel Contract

7. Under the current RM6177 framework in January 2024 CCS carried out a bulk procurement exercise on behalf of blue light organisations for the supply of fuel ensuring that value for money across the sector is achieved.
8. MFRS specification was submitted to CCS and requested all deliveries to be MID/weights and measures metered deliveries with appropriate paperwork to MFRS tanks within 3-4 working days. The Croxteth/TDA Tank transition to the new site in 2024 has been included.
9. Following CCS's further competition under the framework, Standard Fuel Oils Ltd were identified as the preferred bidder as a result of the bulk procurement exercise.
10. It is recommended that a new contract for the supply of bulk fuel delivery under a two-year contract from 01/04/24 – 31/03/26 is awarded to the preferred bidder, Standard Fuel Oils in accordance with the outcome of the CCS competition.

Equality and Diversity Implications

11. The EIA is contained on appendix A with no direct implications arising out of this report.

Staff Implications

12. There are no staff implications with the new contract. The postholder will continue to manage the ordering of bulk fuel and recording on the Fueltek Fuel Tank Management system within Ops Preparedness.

13. MFRS users will see no change as bulk fuel will be continued to be delivered as normal.

Legal Implications

14. The procurement process will be carried out under a framework with CCS meeting the Public Contracts Regulations.
15. 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 set out a benchmark for Category 1 Responders to plan to be self-reliant in fuel for up to 10 days. The 8 Diesel Tanks provides this self-reliance for MFRS.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

16. The total spent ordering bulk diesel fuel for MFRS tanks in 2022/23 was £270,000 due to the rising prices. It is estimated the spend in 2023/24 will be £236,000, therefore this value under contract standing orders requires approval from SLT and MFRA for a new 2-year contract to be awarded.
17. The estimated total litre usage per year will be 262900 and is estimated as 525800 over the lifetime of the contract.
18. The CCS service is a collective purchasing power with expert procurement knowledge and provides standardised contract terms commercial agreements and buying toolkits for the public sector meaning MFRS can get the best value commercial deals in the interests of taxpayers

Risk Management and Health & Implications

19. Diesel Spillage kits are available at all 8 MFRS Tank sites and all front-line appliances carry spillage kits.
20. All MFRS Diesel Tanks have been risk assessed and a maintenance service is carried out every year by Fueltek Ltd

Environmental Implications

21. All front-line appliances and service vehicles are diesel and MFRS is continually assessing the market as part of the Transport Asset Management Plan. The other fuelling option of Allstar fuel card allows alternative fuel purchases so this provides a positive environmental impact working towards Zero Net
- 22.

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.*

23. MFRS are receiving best value for money through collaboration and collective volumes using the Crown Commercial Services framework.
24. 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

[NATIONAL FUELS 2 - CROWN COMMERCIAL RM6177](#)

CFO 71 17 DERV TANK DECOMMISSIONING AND UPGRADE PROGRAMME

CFO 69 22 Allstar Fuel Card Contract under RM6186 CCS framework(Emergency Services) - approved by Members at Policy and Resources Committee
23/3/2023

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
MFRS	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service