

## MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE:	POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE		
DATE:	28 JULY 2016	REPORT NO:	CFO/065/16
PRESENTING OFFICER:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	JANET HENSHAW	REPORT AUTHOR:	SHARON MATTHEWS
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	KEVIN LONGSHAW – GROUP MANAGER, OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS STEWART MARTIN – COMMODITY MANAGER		
TITLE OF REPORT:	CONTRACT FOR TRAUMA CARE TRAINING		

APPENDICES:	NONE
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### Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members approve expenditure in excess of £250,000 under the contract for Trauma Care Training and extension of the contract to its maximum term of 5 years.

### Recommendation

2. That Members;
  - a. Approve the continued use of the current contract for Trauma Care Training for initial and refresher training with a total anticipated expenditure in excess of £250,000.
  - b. Approve the extension of the contract for period 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

### Introduction and Background

3. On occasion Firefighters attend incidents prior to the Ambulance Service. A fundamental element of a Firefighters role is therefore to 'save and preserve endangered life'. To ensure Firefighters are appropriately skilled to deliver this capability the Authority invests in high quality first aid training. The medical qualification attained by Firefighters on Merseyside is First Person on Scene which was chosen following advice and guidance from North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) as it is the qualification undertaken by their Community First Responders.
4. In 2014 the Authority underwent an EU compliant procurement process for Trauma Care Training services. The contract was awarded to PGI Group for the period 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 with an option to extend for a period of a further 2 years.

5. At the time of contract award it was estimated that potential expenditure for the initial 3 year contract term would be circa £220,000.
6. Since the contract was let in 2015 the Authority has commenced Emergency Medical Response (EMR) to cardiac arrest incidents under the auspices of the NJC trial which has had a significant impact on the Trauma Care Training services required.
7. At the request of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) agreement was reached for all stations to partake in the EMR trial rather than 3 stations which was the initial proposal. The phasing of the training plan has been adjusted to reflect the EMR agreement so that all front line staff have undertaken initial Trauma Care Training (First Person on Scene) in Year 1 rather than split across Years 1, 2 and 3. Refresher training for these staff will now need to take place in Year 4 as the training needs to be accredited every 3 years.

For reasons related to National issues the FBU have since taken a position that they wish the trial to be limited to 3 stations. Officers and the FBU are continuing discussion over extending the trial across all stations.

8. In the 16 months since the contract was let the Authority has spent circa £188,000 with PGI Group. Based on current forecasts the Authority will need to spend the following sums prior to contract expiry:
  - Continued provision of initial training - £12,000
  - Refresher training - £81,000
9. This would bring total expenditure under the contract to £281,000 during the full 5 year term. It is proposed to extend the contract to its maximum term as the incumbent will be best placed to undertake the refresher training. Feedback has indicated that the quality and service of the incumbent supplier to date has been excellent and regular contract management meetings are taking place to ensure this continues.
10. As potential total expenditure under the current contract is in excess of £250,000 Authority approval is required before further monies are committed and the contract is extended to its maximum term.

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### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

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11. No equality and diversity implications are arising from this report. Equality and diversity issues were considered during the procurement process and formed part of the Suitability Assessment selection criteria.

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### **Staff Implications**

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12. Operational staff require Trauma Care training to undertake their role within the Authority. Without the correct training and certification, operational staff will not be able to respond to the full range of incidents that they are required to.

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### **Legal Implications**

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13. The procurement process for the provision of these services was completed via a full EU tender as required by law.
14. The contract can be compliantly extended to a 5 year term as there is provision to do this in the terms of the contract.

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### **Financial Implications & Value for Money**

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15. Total expenditure under this contract would increase to circa £281,000 over a 5 year period. Officers have explored other options with regards to refresher training and this is the most effective solution.

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### **Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications**

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16. Operational staff needs to be adequately trained to undertake their role. Without this training, there is a potential risk to our staff and the public with respect to Health & Safety.

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

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17. These training services will contribute to ensuring that operational staff are Safe Effective Firefighters and will help to protect our communities by ensuring the appropriate assistance is offered when required.

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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**NONE**

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### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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**NONE**