

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

17TH FEBRUARY 2014

1. **PROPOSED VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME
2015 TO 2016/17**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Authority approve the proposed Vehicle Replacement Programme (VRP) for the financial years 2014/15 to 2016/17, the detail of which is set out in the main body of the report. Appendices 1, 2 and 3 identify the projected capital costs and the years in which the vehicles are estimated to be delivered.
- 1.2 THAT the Authority note it is intended to procure a range of vehicles identified in the VRP using the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), Open EU tenders and other approved Consortia routes that represent value for money to the Authority.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to seek the Authority's approval to proceed with the proposed VRP for the financial year 2014/15, in line with the above recommendations.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Officers based at Transport Engineering Workshops (TEW) using their professional skills and judgements have carried out a review of the ongoing VRP.
- 3.2 The following age profile and review periods were used to determine the type and number of vehicles in the fleet recommended during the financial period 2014/15:-

Vehicle	Replacement (Years)
Pump Rescue Ladders	13
Brigade Response Vehicles	10
Hydraulic Platforms	15
Pump Rescue Water Towers	15
Prime Movers	15
Demountable Units	20
Large Vans Mercedes/Transit/Iveco	9
Large Vans/Minibus LDV	7
PCV/PMB/G vehicles	9
Cars/Vans	7
Hybrid (Petrol/Electric) cars	5
Bobcat	15
General Purpose Lorry	15

	Review Period (Years)
Coach	12
Driver Training Lorry	15
Trailers/Fuel Bowser	15
Command Support Vehicles	12

3.3 Operational Fire Appliances (PRLs/BRVs)

3.3.1 In relation to operational fire appliances, the service currently has an operational fleet of 84 appliances. As shown in the table above, the PRL vehicles have a replacement life of 13 years (10 years frontline, 3 years reserve fleet) and currently the BRVs 10 years.

3.3.2 Following the financial constraints and the Brigade's requirement to review the type and size of appliance used for delivering the front line response under the Building upon Success (BuS) programme, the Vehicle Replacement Plan for PRLs is three years behind schedule.

3.3.3 Although the impact of this has been offset to some extent by the introduction of Brigade Response Vehicles, it is recommended that in financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17, 7 PRLs are procured each year to reflect the age profile replacement plan of 10 year frontline and 3 year reserve.

3.4 Brigade Response Vehicle

The Brigade successfully introduced a new type of firefighting appliance referred to as a Brigade Response Vehicle (BRV) during 2012/13. The successful trial of three vehicles was supported in a report submitted to the Executive Committees on 19 December 2012 where approval was given for an additional 5 BRVs. A separate report reflected a further 6 BRVs in 2013/14 and currently a further 8 BRVs in 2014/15. These appliances will replace the oldest PRLs within the operational fleet, although not at their current locations, giving a fleet of 19 operational and three reserve BRV's.

3.5 Aerial Appliances

Currently the aerial appliance fleet stands at a total of 6, 4 frontline and 2 reserves. The current programme provides for one aerial appliance to be replaced during 2015/16 which was originally due for replacement in 2014/15. The sixth aerial, which currently falls out of this report, is due for replacement in 2017/18. The aerial fleet by then will have been completely replaced with the oldest being six years against a fifteen year replacement policy.

3.6 Ancillary Vehicles

3.6.1 The ancillary fleet of vehicles currently stands at 122 vehicles and 21 specialised trailers. Following a full review of the ancillary vehicles during 2013/14, appendices 1, 2 and 3 show the vehicles that fall due for replacement within the 3 year VRP.

3.6.2 The option of leasing vehicles has and will continue to be explored. When compared with the current method of procuring vehicles via the current framework agreements the whole life costs of leasing were found to be more expensive.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. A Full Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out as the matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.
- 4.2 The tender and evaluation process will encompass equality and diversity issues in relation to requirements of the companies invited to tender.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The estimated cost of the proposed VRP is as follows:

	£'000
2014/15	493
2015/16	2,890
2016/17	2,266

- 7.2 Funding provision has been made in the three year capital programme to meet this expenditure as part of the Authority's budget setting process.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

VRP Review 2014/15/16/17 Documentation – TEW files

The contact name for this report is Mike Griffiths Director of Resources telephone 0121 380 6906.

PHIL LOACH
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

APPENDIX 1

2014/2015

Estimated Replacement Value

£'000

Van 221	Aldridge Fire Station	15
Van 224	Bickenhill Fire Station	15
Van 225	Stourbridge Fire Station	15
Van 226	Barrs Road Fire Station	15
Van 227	Bilston Fire Station	15
Van 228	Perry Barr Fire Station	15
Van 229	Tettenhall	15
Van 234	Hay Mills	15
Van 237	Willenhall Fire Station	15
Van 238	Youth Services H/Q	15
Van 239	Sutton Coldfield Fire Station	15
Van 269	ICT Engineers	15
Van145	TEW	46

Car 137	Pool car	20
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Van 268	Communications Engineer	25
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Carried Forward from 2013/2014

Van 155	Business Education Centre	45
MPV 142	Community Protection	37
D-BAM 314	Breathing Apparatus	70
D-BAM 315	Breathing Apparatus	70

Estimated total	493
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APPENDIX 2

<u>2015/2016</u>		<u>Estimated Replacement Value</u>
		£'000
HYP 117		710
PRLs	7 x £257,000	1,799
Van 162	Warehousing & Distribution	32
Van 166	TEW	46
Van 247	Training	32
PCV 127	Sheldon Fire Station	35
Van 351	Hydrant Technician	30
Van 352	Hydrant Technician	30
Trailer 230	Community Safety Road Show	25
Trailer 231	Community Safety Fire House	30
Trailer 339	Community Safety Smokey Unit	25
Trailer 356	Chip Pan Demo Unit	12
Trailer 357	Chip Pan Demo Unit	12
Trailer 358	Chip Pan Demo Unit	12
Van BD4	Dim Vehicle	60
Estimated total		2,890

APPENDIX 3

<u>2016/2017</u>		<u>Estimated Replacement Value</u>
		£'000
PRLs	7x £264,000	1,848
Car 134	TEW	22
J411 317	Welfare Unit	60
Car 131	Driver Training	22
Car 138	Pool Car	22
Car 139	Pool Car	22
PC 249	Pool Car	40
PCV254	Driver Training	38
Van 172	Billesley	16
Van 173	Coventry	16
Van 175	Kings Norton	16
Van 176	Binley	16
Van 179	Oldbury	16
Van 180	Equipment Maintenance Services	16
Van 181	Wednesbury	16
Van 186	Bloxwich	16
Van 193	Solihull	16
Van 196	Tipton	16
Van 197	Ward End	16
Van 198	Woodgate Valley	16
Estimated total		2,266

