

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**18 FEBRUARY 2013**

1. **PROPOSED VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME  
2013 to 2015**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

**RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 THAT the Authority approve the proposed Brigade Vehicle Replacement Programme (VRP) for the financial year 2013/14/15, the detail of which is set out in the main body of the report. Appendix 1, 2 and 3 identifies the projected capital costs and the years in which the vehicles are estimated to be delivered.
- 1.2 THAT the Authority note that 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 Brigade VRP for the financial year 2013/14, 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 2013/2014:-

<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>Replacement (Years)</b>
Pump Rescue Ladders	13
Brigade Response Vehicle	10
Hydraulic Platform	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

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

### 3.3 Pump Rescue Ladders

In relation to the PRLs, the service currently has an operational fleet of 83 appliances. As stated at paragraph 3.3 above, these particular vehicles have a replacement life of 13 years (10 years frontline, 3 years reserve fleet).

- 3.4 To achieve a full fleet replacement of the PRLs within the 13 year period, the annual replacement programme has been based on replacing 6 appliances per year for 8 years and 7 appliances per year for 5 years, giving a total of 83.

- 3.5 Due to current financial constraints and the Brigades' 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 now three years behind schedule, although the impact of this will be offset to some extent by the introduction of Brigade Response Vehicles in 2012/13 and the subsequent two financial years. Therefore, it is recommended that in financial year 2015/16, 7 PRLs are procured.

3.6 Brigade Response Vehicle

The Brigade has successfully introduced a new type of firefighting appliance referred to as a Brigade Response Vehicle (BRV) during 2012/13. The successful trial supported the report submitted to the Executive Committees on 19 December 2012 where approval was given for an additional 5 BRVs. A separate report on this Agenda considers the targeted implementation of BRVs and the VRP reflects a further 6 BRVs in 2013/14 and a further 11 BRVs in 2014/15. These appliances would replace the oldest current PRLs within the operational fleet, although not at their current locations.

3.7 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.

3.8 Ancillary Vehicles

The ancillary fleet of vehicles currently stands at 111 vehicles and 13 specialised trailers. Following a full review of the ancillary vehicles during 2012/13, appendix 1, 2 and 3 show the vehicles that fall due for replacement within the 3 year VRP.

- 3.9 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 agreement 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 and a Full Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out.
- 4.2 The matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.
- 4.3 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
2013/14	923
2014/15	913
2015/16	2,776

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

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

VRP Review 2012/13 Documentation – TEW files

The contact name for this report is Mike Griffiths Director of Resources telephone 0121 380 6907.

VIJ RANDENIYA  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

**APPENDIX 1**

**2013/2014**

**Estimated Replacement Value**

**£'000**

BRVs 6 x £57,000		342
D-BAM 314	Breathing Apparatus main control unit, Hay Mills	70
D-BAM 315	Breathing Apparatus main control unit, West Bromwich	70
VAN 153	Facilities Management	35
VAN 155	Business Educational Centre	45
Car 140	Driver Training Academy	18
PCV 201	Academy	35
PCV 202	Tipton Fire Station	35
PCV 203	Academy	35
PCC 205	Handsworth Red Hot Education Station	35
VAN 126	Fire Investigation	46
VAN144	Community Safety	46
VAN267	Communications Engineers	25
CAR 248	Appliance & Equipment Estate	18
CAR 135	Pool Car HYBRID	19
CAR136	Pool Car HYBRID	19
MPV142	Community Protection 4X4	30
<b>Estimated total</b>		<b>923</b>

**APPENDIX 2**

<b><u>2014/2015</u></b>	<b><u>Estimated Replacement Value</u></b>	
		<b>£'000</b>
BRVs 11 x £57,000		627
Van 221	Aldridge Fire Station	15
Van 222	Hay Mills Fire Station	15
Van 224	Bickenhill Fire Station	15
Van 225	Stourbridge Fire Station	15
Van 226	Cradley Heath Fire Station	15
Van 227	Bilston Fire Station	15
Van 228	Perry Barr Fire Station	15
Van 229	Tettenhall	15
Van 234	Safeside Side at East Side	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
Van 268	Communications Engineer	25
<b>Estimated total</b>		<b>913</b>

**APPENDIX 3**

<b><u>2015/2016</u></b>		<b><u>Estimated Replacement Value</u></b>
		<b>£'000</b>
HYP 117		660
PRLs	7 x £250,000	1,750
Van 162	Stores	32
Van 166	TEW	46
Van 247	Academy	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	25
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	50
<b>Estimated total</b>		<b>2,776</b>