

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

18 APRIL 2011

1. **PROCUREMENT OF HYDRAULIC PLATFORMS**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Authority approve the proposal to procure two Hydraulic Platforms in 2011-2012.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to seek the Authority's approval to proceed with the proposed purchase of two Hydraulic Platforms.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The service maintains a Vehicle Replacement Programme (VRP) which details a plan to ensure that service delivery is supported, where appropriate, by vehicles which match the strategic needs of the Service.
- 3.2 The Service currently maintains a fleet of four operational Hydraulic Platforms and one Reserve. Two of these four have been replaced by new vehicles within the last 12 months. It has been confirmed by analysis of operational incident data that the requirement for four Hydraulic Platforms is not likely to change for the foreseeable future.
- 3.3 The current VRP, which runs from April 2010 to March 2013 provides for the replacement of one further Hydraulic Platform in each of the years 2011/12 and 2012/13. These vehicles are due to be replaced on the grounds of age and serviceability.

- 3.4 By monitoring market conditions it has become apparent that by procuring the two vehicles in 2011/12, a cash saving of approximately £60 000 can be achieved by issuing contracts prior to a known forthcoming price increase. Such an approach would also facilitate the rationalisation of costs attributable to the procurement process, the commissioning process and the conversion of existing Hydraulic Platform operators to new ways of working. This approach would mean that both Hydraulic Platforms can be purchased at a combined cost of £1.25m.
- 3.5 As Members will also recall, all Hydraulic Platforms are being staffed on a 'dual crewing' basis with effect from April 2011. Upon completion of the proposed procurement of the two further vehicles described, the Service will have a fleet comprising of exactly the same vehicle type. This will enhance the opportunities for staff to operate any one of the four vehicles. The operation of a Hydraulic Platform is specialist and specific to the 'type' on which the operator has been trained. A single vehicle type will also allow the rationalisation of the servicing and maintenance arrangements.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out. The matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The procurement process was carried out in accordance with the Authority's procurement procedures.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The vehicle replacement programme for 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 was approved at the Authority meeting on 15 February 2010. Within that approved programme, provision was made for the replacement of one Hydraulic Platform in 2011/12 and one hydraulic platform in 2012/13.

- 6.2 Because of work currently being undertaken within the Building upon Success (BuS) programme to consider various service delivery options and the vehicle support required to provide these service options, an update on the vehicle replacement programme was not submitted to the Authority on 15 February 2011 pending the outcome of this work.
- 6.3 However, to provide the capacity to consider various vehicle replacement options, provision was made in the 2011/12 capital programme of £2.8 million, which was the original provisional figure approved at the Authority meeting on 15 February 2010.
- 6.4 At this stage, the detail of vehicle requirements in 2011/12 and future years is not fully known but will be reported to the Authority once the outcome of the BuS work package considerations have been fully determined. However, the work to date has confirmed that the Authority will need four Hydraulic Platforms.
- 6.5 Given the potential scale of price increases for contracts awarded beyond April 2011, the proposal of acquiring the 2011/12 Hydraulic Platform and re-profiling the 2012/13 Hydraulic Platform into 2011/12 would achieve combined savings in the purchase price of £60 000 based on anticipated price increases. The combined estimated purchase cost of £1.25 million could be accommodated within the provisional sum set aside for the vehicle replacement programme in 2011/2012.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Transport Engineering Workshops Files
Authority Report 15 February 2010 – Proposed Vehicle Replacement
Programme 2010/11 to 2012/13

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