

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**14 FEBRUARY 2011**

**1. DISPOSAL OF DECOMMISSIONED FIRE APPLIANCES**

Joint Report of the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the donation of fire appliances overseas be discontinued.
- 1.2 THAT authority be delegated to the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Treasurer, to dispose of decommissioned fire appliances on the open market.
- 1.3 THAT all references to the donation of fire appliances be deleted from paragraph 4.10 of the scheme of delegation (provision of aid outside the UK).

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 This report is submitted to update the Authority on the changed economic conditions surrounding the disposal of decommissioned fire appliances, particularly within the context of reduced budget provision to the Service.
- 2.2 Further, that in light of the changed circumstances, the Authority agrees that all future such disposals are managed so as to maximise the income to this Service by placing all decommissioned fire appliances on the open market.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Service has an existing policy that delegates to the Chief Fire Officer the decision to dispose of up to two decommissioned fire appliances per year under the terms of the West Midlands Fire Service Overseas Aid policy.
- 3.2 This policy has previously seen the donation of vehicles which are beyond their useful and cost effective life (to West Midlands Fire Service) to countries such as Pakistan and Romania.

- 3.3 Historically, such vehicles have been of limited market value within the UK and have not attracted significant interest from potential buyers.
- 3.4 With more recent developments in fire appliance technology and build quality, linked to the excellent maintenance and servicing standards achieved through the West Midlands Fire Service Transport Engineering Workshops, the residual value of appliances at the end of their operational life with this Service has risen considerably.
- 3.5 The Brigade's Fleet Manager, and recent market experience, confirms that there is a developing market for such vehicles and that significantly increased sales income can be realised when compared to recent years.
- 3.6 It is not proposed, at this stage, to seek variation on the policy regarding the donation of surplus operational equipment under the terms of the West Midlands Fire Service Overseas Aid policy.

#### 4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. The initial Equality Impact Assessment did not raise issues which required a full Equality Impact Assessment to be completed.

#### 5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Whilst the Local Government (Overseas Assistance) Act 1993 makes provision under a General Authorisation by the Secretary of State for the disposal of vehicles and equipment as per the existing policy, there is no requirement for the Service to dispose of vehicles and equipment in this manner.

#### 6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The placement of decommissioned end of life vehicles on the open market is anticipated to realise circa £10,000 per appliance, under current market conditions.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

West Midlands Fire Service Standing Order 1/21 – Overseas Aid Policy

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TREASURER