

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

DATE: 26 NOVEMBER 2012

REPORT OF: RUSSELL PEARSON- CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL HYDRAULIC RESCUE EQUIPMENT.



KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

1. Following a successful project to replace rescue equipment in early 2012, Surrey Fire & Rescue Service needs to purchase five further sets of Hydraulic Rescue Equipment. This proposed procurement increases the overall Project value to £573k, which will require Cabinet Member approval.

DETAILS:

Business Case

2. In 2011 Surrey Fire & Rescue Service conducted a project to replace hydraulic rescue equipment.
3. Following the Firebuy (Consortium) Mini Competition process all equipment was comprehensively evaluated against the Services defined user requirements. Crews from eight Fire Stations, Road Traffic Collision Instructors and technical managers contributed to this process.
4. The Service ensured all staff groups were engaged in this process as crews represented various crewing patterns i.e. whole-time Retained Duty System and Variable and a number of women fire fighters also participated.
5. Suppliers provided tender responses and were subsequently evaluated against the following criteria: Product Performance, Whole Life Costs, Warranties, Interoperability/ Compatibility, Research & Development, Training & Support and Delivery. The outcome of this process was that Weber Rescue UK were identified as the preferred supplier.
6. Following approval by the Procurement Review Group the Service purchased equipment in early 2012 at a value of £497k that was below the threshold that required Cabinet Member approval.
7. At the time when determining the amount of equipment that was required a number of assumptions were made by the project team based on the Public Safety Plan.
8. Firstly, it was anticipated that a reduction in the number of fire appliances would be implemented through 2012. This plan is still to be realised and therefore, three front line appliances are operating without the new rescue equipment.

9. Additionally there are discussions taking place on new Fire Stations and the impacts of equipment provision are not yet fully understood.
10. Secondly, with the range and advanced capability of the new equipment and the need to maintain firefighter competencies the Training and Development department need equipment to support simultaneous training events without impacting on the front line operational equipment.
11. Lastly, when the project was completed, it was not envisaged the maintenance and servicing, which is carried out in house, would tie up all the spare equipment and therefore not provide the necessary resilience should other equipment become damaged or break down.
12. Therefore, following a review of the current provision of rescue equipment and taking into account all the issues above, the service is seeking to purchase **five** further sets to meet its current needs. In accordance with the SCC financial regulations, the procurement of this additional equipment will raise the overall value of the project into the category that requires Cabinet Member approval.

Consultation - N/A

Financial and value for money implications

13. The cost of additional Hydraulic Rescue Equipment will be £75k; this takes the overall costs of the project to £573k.
14. This cost will be funded from the Vehicle & Equipment Replacement Fund (VERF).

Equalities implications

15. A full equality impact assessment was undertaken when evaluating the new rescue equipment.
16. With regards to the defined user requirements, specification and evaluation staff involved in the project represented various crewing patterns i.e. whole-time RDS and Variable and a number of women fire fighters also participated.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

17. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.
18. The new rescue equipment assists in the speedy resolution of road traffic collisions, which support the need to maintain flow on the transport infrastructure in the county.
19. The new equipment uses less fuel pro rata as it is designed to provide power on demand rather than constant engine performance.

Legal implications/legislative requirements

20. Surrey Fire & Rescue Service has the following duties regarding the provision of equipment for dealing with road traffic collisions:

- FRS Act, Section 8 (1) (a) A Fire and Rescue Authority must make provision for the purpose of 'rescuing people in the event of road traffic accidents in its area'.
- FRS Act, Section 8 (2) (b) A Fire and Rescue Authority must make provision for the purpose of 'protecting people from serious harm, to the extent that it considers it reasonable to do so, in the event of road traffic accidents in its area'.
- FRS Act, Section 9 (3) (a) 'to secure the provision of personnel, services and equipment'.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications – N/A

Section 151 Officer commentary

21. The Section 151 Officer (Head of Finance) confirms that all material, financial and business issues and risks have been considered/addressed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Cabinet Member approves that Surrey Fire & Rescue Service purchase five additional sets of Hydraulic Rescue Equipment at a cost of £75k. (If approved, this will mean the overall value of the project to replace rescue equipment will be £574K.)

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

At the time when determining the amount of equipment that was required a number of assumptions were made by the project team based on the Public Safety Plan.

Firstly, it was anticipated that a reduction in the number of fire appliances would be implemented through 2012. This plan is still to be realised and therefore three front line appliances are operating without the new rescue equipment.

Secondly, with the range and advanced capability of the new equipment and the need to maintain firefighter competencies, the training department need equipment to support simultaneous training events without impacting on the front line operational equipment.

Lastly, when the project was completed it was not envisaged the maintenance and servicing, which is carried out in house, would tie up all the spare equipment and therefore, not provide the necessary resilience should other equipment become damaged or break down.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

Following approval, the service will purchase five sets of Hydraulic Rescue Equipment. Three sets will be issued to Walton, Oxted and Gomshall fire appliances.

One set will be issued to Transport and Technical services to support servicing, maintenance and provide spare for unforeseen breakdown or damage. One remaining set will be issued for use by the Training and Development Department.

The service will communicate this through their Intranet Web Site.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Fire Brigades Union
Senior Managers SFRS
Andy Tink, Senior Principal Accountant, Finance
Ross Duguid, Category Manager, Procurement and Commissioning

Sources/background papers:

SCC Waiver for Additional RTC Equipment
Briefing Paper to SLT
