

**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**MEETING: 19 SEPTEMBER 2011**

**Item No. 8**

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**SUBJECT: PROCUREMENT OF SPECIALIST APPLIANCES**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND FINANCE OFFICER**

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**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report sets out for the information of Members, the procurement arrangements in respect of three Specialist Appliances and seeks Authority approval to proceed with the award of a contract.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Included in the capital budget and vehicle replacement programme for 2011/12, is provision for the procurement of two Operational Support Units and one Heavy Rescue Tender. The new vehicles are intended to replace vehicles which are now approaching the end of their operating lease.

**3 PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

- 3.1 The fire and rescue service national procurement body, Firebuy, had in place a framework agreement for the supply of special vehicles. Following the recent closure of Firebuy, this agreement was novated to the successor organisation, 'Firebuy from the Consortium', which is managed by the Consortium for Purchasing and Distribution Limited. Wiltshire Council will undertake the role as the Contracting Authority, as required under The Public Contracts Regulations 2006 thereby allowing its use by the Authority.
- 3.2 In accordance with the requirements of the special vehicle framework agreement, a mini competition was undertaken amongst all of the suppliers on the framework, which involved some 21 companies being issued with the tender documentation.
- 3.3 Subsequent to this completed tender documentation was received from four of the companies. These were:
- Angloco Ltd, Batley
  - WH Bence (Coachworks) Ltd, Bristol
  - John Dennis Coachbuilders Ltd, Guildford
  - Wilker UK Ltd, Sandbach

3.4 The list of values of the responses received, excluding VAT, is set out below in ascending order of value (one supplier only submitted a tender for the Heavy Rescue Tender):

Two Operational Support Units (Price each)	One Heavy Rescue Tender
£166,854.02	£222,814.51
£170,874.95	£231,742.48
£179,168.95	£240,318.00
	£242,066.70

3.5 The tenders were evaluated using the Most Economically Advantageous Tender method using the following criteria.

- Suitability of products to meet user requirements
- Whole life costings
- Price
- Suitability of delivery dates
- Warranties
- Proposals for training

3.6 The tender submitted by WH Bence (Coachworks) Ltd for two Operational Support Units at a cost of £166,854.02 each was both the lowest cost and the most economically advantageous tender. The tender submitted by WH Bence (Coachworks) Ltd for one Heavy Rescue Tender at a cost of £231,742.48 was not the lowest cost however was identified as the most economically advantageous tender based on an evaluation taking into consideration all the criteria listed in section 3.5 of this report.

#### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Provision is included in the Capital Programme (Vehicle Replacement Programme) 2011/2012 for the acquisition of 2 Operational Support Units and 1 Heavy Rescue Tender. As with all assets purchased by the Authority through the Vehicle Replacement Programme, a full option appraisal will be undertaken at the point of acquisition to identify the best option for financing, including outright purchase, leasing and / or borrowing.

#### **5 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 It is considered that by procuring these vehicles will improve the health and safety impact for operational personnel as a result of the incorporation of modern technology and safety features into the design of the appliances.

**6 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no equality and fairness implications associated with this report.

**7 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Procuring these appliances will support the Authority's approach to risk management by reducing the potential for harm to operational personnel.

**8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 The Authority is requested to:-

- (i) approve acceptance of the tender from WH Bence (Coachworks) Ltd in the sum of £565,450.52 excluding VAT, for the supply of two Operational Support Units and one Heavy Rescue Tender.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The undermentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- Authority Report 28 February 2011 Capital Programme 2011/12

