

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 7

MEETING: 11 SEPTEMBER 2017

**SUBJECT: NATIONAL RESILIENCE CAPABILITY MODEL PROPOSED
CHANGES**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE (THE CLERK TO
THE AUTHORITY) THE STRATEGIC FINANCE OFFICER AND THE PERSONNEL
ADVISOR TO THE AUTHORITY**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members regarding the national review of the Mass Decontamination (MD) capability and its resultant effect on the Authority's assets.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Since 2003, the national MD capability model was based on 43 strategically located Incident Response Units (IRUs) with one of these based at Tynemouth Community Fire Station.
- 2.2 In support of this capability model, Washington Community Fire Station host a Mass Decontamination Dis-robe (MDD) and Farringdon Community Fire Station host the Mass Decontamination Re-robe (MDR) both of which are transported using an assigned prime mover.
- 2.3 These assets transferred to the Authority in April 2010, albeit National Resilience retained the liability for servicing and maintenance of the assets.

3 NEW MASS DECONTAMINATION CAPABILITY MODEL

- 3.1 On 29 February 2017 the mass decontamination capability lead, Commissioner Dany Cotton, wrote to the Chief Fire Officer informing him of the outcome of the 'CBRN(e) Mass Decontamination (MD) Futures' review conducted in during 2016.
- 3.2 The outcome of the review, underpinned by updated planning assumptions, will be the transition to a new capability with 28 Mass Decontamination Units (MDUs) located at strategic points across the country. The configuration of the MDUs means they are significantly quicker than IRUs to unload resulting in a faster rate of decontamination for the public.
- 3.3 MDDs and MDRs will no longer be part of the response model and will be reconfigured into the new MDUs.

- 3.4 Prime movers are used to transport MDUs and the national plan was for the vehicles associated with each reconfigured MDD or MDR to carry out this transport role.
- 3.5 The 43 IRUs will be withdrawn from service as part of the National Resilience fleet and associated equipment will be utilised for the new MDUs. The empty vehicle will remain with the host Authority.
- 3.6 The expected 'go live' date for the introduction of the MDUs is 2 October 2017.

4 IMPLICATIONS FOR TWFRA

- 4.1 Tynemouth fire station has been identified as the primary location for an MDU that will be reconfigured from the MDD and prime mover based at Washington fire station. The equipment from the IRU will be utilised on this MDU and the empty IRU vehicle will remain with the Authority.
- 4.2 An internal review is ongoing into the future use of the IRU within TWFRS. Due to its age and servicing costs, disposal of the vehicle is a consideration.
- 4.3 The MDR located at Farringdon fire station will also be reconfigured into a new MDU for disposition elsewhere in the country. The Home Office initially requested to remove the prime mover currently assigned to this MDR.
- 4.4 This prime mover is embedded into our day-to-day operational response model so representation was made to the Home Office and the Authority requested to retain this prime mover, though it will not be classified as National Resilience fleet.
- 4.5 Adopting this new model of response will provide a quicker MD response to the community of Tyne and Wear and retention of the prime mover will ensure our integrated risk management plan for operational response remains effective.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The risk implications of adoption of the new MD capability model has been assessed as low.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Due to one prime mover no longer being classified as National Resilience fleet, the Authority will take on the responsibility for the servicing and maintenance of this vehicle. The expected cost will be £2,500 per annum. For 2017/18 this can be met from Contingencies and for 2018/19 onwards it will be met within the Revenue Budget.
- 6.2 Members are advised that the Authority will continue to receive New Dimensions Fire Revenue Grant (Section 31 funding) for the MD capability and associated servicing and maintenance, excluding those costs set out in 6.1 above.

7 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report.

8 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Authority is recommended to:

- a) Note the content of the report;
- b) Accept the financial implications set out in section 6;
- c) Receive further reports as appropriate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- Fire Authority 21 December 2009, Part 1 Item 4: Transfer of Ownership of New Dimension Assets
- Fire and Rescue Service Circular 16/2009 – Transfer of Ownership of New Dimension Assets

