



DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	DSFRA/12/24
MEETING	DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE OF MEETING	30 JULY 2012
SUBJECT OF REPORT	BIDS AGAINST THE FIRE CAPITAL FUNDING PROGRAMME 2013 - 15
LEAD OFFICER	Treasurer
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p><i>That the Authority endorse the following bids, as outlined in this report, against the Department for Communities and Local Government Fire Capital Funding Programme 2013-15:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The bid submitted by this Authority based around the Light Rescue Pump initiative; and</i> • <i>The bid submitted by Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Authority on behalf of itself, this Authority and the Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Authority and related to the Service Transformation and Efficiency Project (STEP).</i>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>This report details two bids submitted for funding against the government's Fire Capital Funding programme 2013 – 15, the closing date for which was 2 July 2012.</p> <p>The first bid is made solely by this Authority and relates to the Service Light Rescue Pump initiative which itself is part of a wider, strategic fleet realignment project.</p> <p>The second bid relates to additional funding required for the Service Transformation and Efficiency Project which is being progressed in partnership with the Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Services.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	As indicated in this report
EQUALITY AND RISK BENEFIT ASSESSMENT (ERBA)	Not applicable to this report

APPENDICES	Nil.
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS	<p>A. Department for Communities and Local Government Guidance to Fire and Rescue Authorities bidding for capital funding 2013 to 2015</p> <p>B. Report DSFRA/12/16 – “Capital Bidding Process – Light Rescue Pump Project” as considered by the Ordinary Authority meeting on 30 May 2012</p>

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its ordinary meeting on 30 May 2012 the Authority received report DSFRA/12/16 notifying, amongst other things, of the recently-announced bidding process for Fire Capital Grant funding for all Fire and Rescue Authorities for 2013-15. This process is designed to incentivise and reward efficiencies.
- 1.2 In summary, a total national grant fund of £70m per year in 2013/14 and 2014/15 will be made available to individual fire and rescue authorities through a combination of;
- An efficiency fund, administered as capital grant via a bidding process, and
 - A pro rata distribution.
- 1.3 The deadline for receipt by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) of bids against the efficiency fund was 2 July 2012. Additionally, the CLG guidance on the bidding process stipulated:
- “The Department will require confirmation that the bids have been approved by locally established governance structures/committee of the respective fire and rescue authority.”
- 1.4 This report now details, for endorsement by the Authority, two bids submitted against the Fund:
- A bid submitted solely by this Authority related to the Light Rescue Pump initiative; and
 - A bid submitted by Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Authority, on behalf of itself, this Authority and the Bedfordshire & Luton Fire & Rescue Authority, in relation to the Service Transformation and Efficiency Project being progressed in partnership by the authorities concerned.

2. DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY BID – LIGHT RESCUE PUMP INITIATIVE (STRATEGIC FLEET REALIGNMENT)

- 2.1 In light of the deadline for submission of bids, the Authority resolved at its Ordinary Meeting on 30 May (Minute DSFRA/15(b) refers):
- “(b) that approval and submission of the final bid, by the deadline of 2 July 2012, be delegated to the Chief Fire Officer following consultation with the Capital Programme Working Party”
- 2.2 The Capital Programme Working Party met on 25 June 2012 to consider the detail of a proposed bid by this Authority. The bid is, in effect, an ‘Invest to Save’ bid directly linked to the Light Rescue Pump (LRP) project and fits with the principle of the bidding process in that it will “deliver efficiency saving outcomes whilst providing a clear demonstration of value for money”.
- 2.3 Between 2009 and 2011 a comprehensive review of Service Delivery was undertaken involving an analysis of six years of incident data together with demand and incident profiles for each fire station, supported by ‘FSEC’, ‘Phoenix’ and ‘Mosaic’ modelling tools. The review had the following strategic aims:
- matching specific resources to risks;
 - improvement of firefighter safety;

- maintenance and improvement where possible to the level of service to local communities; and
- achieving efficiencies where practicable.

2.4 These strategic aims were underpinned by the idea of moving away from the principle that 'One size fits all' in the distribution and annual replacement arrangements of the standard fire appliance. This work has evolved and introduces for the first time in the United Kingdom the principle of a tiered response to emergency service delivery, where the type of vehicle, equipment carried and skills required by staff to support this approach, are wholly appropriate to local geographical risk. The tiered response would be based around:

- **Tier 1 – Primary Response.** Either a Light Rescue Pump (LRP) or Medium Rescue Pump (MRP) – the more traditional type appliance – depending on the incident and/or station;
- **Tier 2 – Enhanced Support.** Provided by MRPs;
- **Tier 3 – Strategic Support.** Provided by specialist vehicles; and
- **Tier 4 – Resilience Support.** Provided by regional or national assets.

2.5 The LRP project itself will involve the replacement of 70 Medium Rescue Pumps (MRPs) with LRPs over a four year period. This will require considerable capital investment but, if the bid against the efficiency fund is successful, the Service will be in a position to start to address the backlog in its Fleet Replacement Strategy in April 2013.

2.6 The outline business case for the LRP project has been approved by the Service Programme Board and the full business case is currently being finalised before going out for a full tender process compliant with – because of the quantum involved – European Union procurement legislation.

2.7 In line with the former decision of the Authority, the Capital Programme Working Party endorsed submission by the Chief Fire Officer of a bid for £4,760,000 from the Fire Capital Grant Fund as a contribution towards the total cost of the LRP project. It is hoped that, in light of its innovative nature, it will prove to be successful.

3. BID FOR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE SERVICE TRANSFORMATION AND EFFICIENCY PROJECT

3.1 As previously indicated, Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Authority has submitted this bid on behalf of itself, this Authority and the Bedfordshire and Luton Fire & Rescue Authority who are working in partnership on this initiative.

3.2 The background to this bid is that fire and rescue Services (FRSs) are being asked to maintain their quality and levels of service while operating with fewer resources. The 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review requires FRSs to make significant reductions in their operating budgets over the review period (2011 to 2015). In support, the Service Transformation & Efficiency Project (STEP) will specify, implement, beneficially use and embed technology that will enable Services to operate within their obligations to citizens and government.

- 3.3 The vision is to ensure that accurate, consistent, secure and timely information will be available throughout the Service. Intuitive applications will enhance the user experience for staff, partners and citizens; and drive agile, self-optimising business processes. The availability of high quality information will support effective decision-making, creating an environment where resources can be rationalised and efficiencies maximised.
- 3.4 STEP is intended to deliver against this vision by managing activities that enable the following Service objectives to be met. These objectives are assembled from the participating FRSs.
- (a) Improve ability to adapt and change
 - (b) Improve targeting and use of resources
 - (c) Build ability to offer outsourced services to other FRSs and other public bodies
 - (d) Generally streamline activities
 - (e) Improve response efficiency
 - (f) Improve Fire Control
 - (g) Expand collaborative working
 - (h) Expand commercial activities
 - (i) Improve back-office efficiency
- 3.5 There are similarities between (c) & (h) and between (d) & (i) but their separation reflects nuances in emphasis between the FRSs particularly interested in them.
- 3.6 The total cost of this project between the three services is £6,137,000. These costs would be spread evenly over the two financial years covered by the bid process. Therefore, it is estimated that a capital fund of £3,068,500 will be required per financial year.
- 3.7 The technology purchased through the STEP will ensure each Authority can function more efficiently within its reduced resource envelope. The technology is intended to be highly resilient and enable the automation of processes that currently require physical resource to complete.
- 3.8 The savings relating to this technology are those reductions that have already been applied to individual services through the Comprehensive Spending Review. This technology will assist in ensuring that any cuts in staffing will not impact on the services delivered to the public. Additionally, the technology will result in more resilient business processes that are common between the 3 FRSs and as efficient as possible.
- 3.9 The key risk of this technology is integration with other key business systems but, to mitigate effectively against this, the 3 FRSs are working tirelessly to educate its system suppliers to ensure they understand the importance of integration for all Fire Services in the future.
- 3.10 The project is structured in such a way that all processes developed by the collaboration will be open to other Fire Services to purchase. The project will also have a central resource structure, where specialist skills from each service will be pooled to deliver on-going business processes for the collaboration. These skills will also be available to other services that buy the technology.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 It is considered that the two bids described above are truly innovative and, if successful, will place this Authority in the vanguard of delivering truly efficient, cost-effective and resilient services. The bids are, therefore, commended to the Authority for endorsement.

KEVIN WOODWARD
Treasurer