

DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY



REPORT REFERENCE NO.	RC/14/4
MEETING	RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	3 FEBRUARY 2014
SUBJECT OF REPORT	PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF TWO END OF LIFE SERVICE VEHICLES
LEAD OFFICER	Joint report of the Director of Operations and the Treasurer
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>That, in accordance with Financial Regulations, the Committee approves the gifting of the 2 “end-of-life” 4x4 Ford Ranger vehicles to Pokhara and Chitwari in Nepal as a humanitarian gesture and given the opportunity at this time to have them transported at no cost to the Service.</i>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (the Service) is currently working with contacts in the United Nations (UN), the UK Government’s Department for International Development (DFID) and the Municipalities in Nepal to support the building of capacity of firefighting and rescue Services in Nepal.</p> <p>As part of this initiative and as a humanitarian gesture, it is now proposed to donate two 4 x 4 Light Firefighting vehicles (Ford Rangers) that have reached the end of their operational Service life. The Authority is normally required to secure best value for asset disposals. The appliances, if sold on the open market, would be anticipated to realise £6,500 per vehicle, plus £1,200 on-board equipment costs – a total of £15,400. The Authority’s Financial Regulations do, however, allow for the making of grants or gifts albeit that the approval of the Resources Committee is required for grants/gifts of between £5,000 and £25,000.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	As indicated above, disposal of the vehicles and associated equipment on the open market would realise circa. £15,400 for the Authority.
EQUALITY AND RISKS BENEFIT ASSESSMENT	N/A
APPENDICES	None
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS	None

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service has, via its officers, been involved with several humanitarian projects in Nepal over a number of years. More recently, the Service has been seeking to support on-going United Nations (UN) and Department for International Development (DFID) projects, working alongside the British Army and the Gurkas Regiment, aimed at building a sustainable and effective fire and rescue capability for Nepal.

2. CHARITABLE DONATION

- 2.1 The opportunity has arisen to support the above initiative by the donation of two Service 4x4 Ford Ranger vehicles that have reached the end of their operational life with the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service. The Authority is normally obliged to seek best value when disposing of its assets albeit that Financial Regulations do provide for the making of grants/gifts. The estimated value on the open market is £7,700 per vehicle and associated equipment – a total of £15,400 for both vehicles. The Authority's Financial Regulations require the approval of this Committee for the making of any grant/gift between £5,000 and £25,000
- 2.2 There would be an added advantage to making the humanitarian, charitable donation at this particular time in that the opportunity exists for the Service to have the vehicles transported from the UK to Nepal by the British Military at no cost. Prior to shipment, the vehicles would be cleansed of Service branding and identification markings removed.
- 2.3 There are a number of municipalities in Nepal where fire appliances are "off the run" or regularly out of service. While Rotarians from two of these - Pokhara and Chitwan – are actively seeking to raise funds to help secure a fire appliance, any charitable donation that the Service could offer would clearly be of huge, life-saving benefit and would enable the Rotarian fundraising effort to be targeted at securing another "end-of-life" Service vehicle currently available. Progress with this would, however, be subject to a further report as necessary.
- 2.4 For the above humanitarian reasons, the Committee is invited to support, in accordance with Financial Regulations, the gifting of the two "end-of-life" 4x4 vehicles

TREVOR STRATFORD
Director of Operations

KEVIN WOODWARD
Treasurer