

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	RC/14/13
MEETING	RESOURCES COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	1 SEPTEMBER 2014
SUBJECT OF REPORT	DISPOSAL OF SIX END-OF-LIFE SERVICE VEHICLES
LEAD OFFICER	Director of Corporate Services
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>That, in accordance with Financial Regulations, the Committee authorises the donation of six 'end-of-life' Land Rovers to the four Dartmoor Rescue Groups.</i>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>In its commitment to improving public and firefighter safety, the Service has undertaken to build on current relationships with voluntary partners and to expand joint roles and capabilities. A good example of this is the joint working with the four Dartmoor Rescue Groups.</p> <p>The Service currently has six Land Rovers that have reached the end of their serviceable life and this has created an opportunity to support our voluntary sector partners by donating these vehicles to them. Each vehicle would have appropriate signwriting to highlight and promote the working partnership between the Service and the Dartmoor Rescue Groups.</p> <p>The Dartmoor Rescue Groups have capabilities that support and complement those of the Service. In addition, they also possess a high level of knowledge regarding access, navigation and topography in remote areas where the Service often faces challenges when responding to emergency incidents. The provision of the 4x4 vehicle capability that these Land Rovers provide will enhance the ability of the Dartmoor Rescue Groups to support the Service in responding to emergencies and will reduce the number of times when the Service has to request support from National Assets.</p> <p>An appropriate agreement to affect the transfer of ownership and all future liabilities would be drawn up between the Authority and the Dartmoor Rescue Groups.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	The normal disposal route for such vehicles would be via local auction facilities which could, dependent on market conditions, generate a receipt of between £26,000 and £30,000. However, savings resulting from a reduction in on-going costs associated with seeking mutual aid from other fire and rescue services would more than likely offset this one off receipt.
EQUALITY AND RISKS BENEFIT ASSESSMENT	The contents of this report are considered compatible with current equalities and human rights legislation.
APPENDICES	None
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS	None

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Service is committed to improving public and firefighter safety. Within this broad remit there are clear aims in the Corporate Strategy to:

- engage with the community and voluntary sector to ensure an integrated response framework that allows all agencies to understand respective roles and responsibilities;
- engage with partners, build community capacity to help plan for, respond to and recover from local emergency events;
- continue to develop appropriate non-fire response arrangements in collaboration with other blue light and voluntary sector agencies.

1.2 In supporting these aims the Service has begun to improve its relationship with the voluntary rescue organisations within the Devon & Cornwall and the Avon & Somerset Local Resilience Forums. The Service has always worked with the voluntary rescue organisations and this has become more commonplace in responding to the extreme weather events over the last few years. It is common for our firefighters to work alongside volunteer rescuers at flood, water rescue, confined space and work at height incidents, particularly on the two moors and in the wider rural areas.

1.3 The Service is in the process of forming strong partnerships with Dartmoor Rescue Group and Devon Cave Rescue in the first instance. All voluntary rescue organisations are fully reliant on charitable donations to undertake their rescue roles and as such funding is always an issue. The Service has recently replaced a number of four wheel drive vehicles and, as a result, has six end-of-life Land Rovers which are now surplus to requirements. It has been identified, through the new partnerships, that these Land Rovers would be very useful to voluntary rescue organisations for their core business.

2. NORMAL DISPOSAL ROUTE

2.1 The Service disposes of end-of-life vehicle and equipment assets using two processes:

- Operational Appliances, PPE and Equipment are in the main disposed of using the Pan Government MOD Disposal Services Authority.
- Light vehicles (cars, vans and small commercial vehicles) are disposed of using local auction facilities at either Husseys in Exeter or British Car Auctions in Bridgwater.

2.2 The estimated value of the Land Rovers is:

Units	Estimated value range		Total Estimated value range	
2	£5,000	£6,000	£10,000	£12,000
4	£4,000	£4,500	£16,000	£18,000
Total Estimated Receipt			£26,000	£30,000

3. PROPOSED DISPOSAL ROUTE

- 3.1 The Service has identified that these Land Rovers would be very useful to voluntary rescue organisations for their core business. Given the on-going work to form stronger and closer relationships with the community and the community based voluntary rescue groups, it is proposed that the Authority donates the six vehicles to the Service's rescue partners rather than dispose of them in the normal manner.
- 3.2 It is proposed that all six Land Rovers are gifted to the four Dartmoor Rescue Teams as a charitable donation. The vehicles would have appropriate signwriting to highlight and promote the working partnership between the Service and the Dartmoor Rescue Groups. They will be distributed between the groups according to need as follows:
- Plymouth Group x 2
 - Okehampton Group x 2
 - Ashburton Group x 1
 - Tavistock Group x 1
- 3.3 In supporting the Dartmoor Rescue Groups in this way, there are a number of significant benefits for the Service:
- The Dartmoor Rescue Groups have a water rescue capability which supports and compliments that of the Service. There have been, and will continue to be, incidences of weather events that require the Service to request support from National Assets managed by other fire and rescue services, at a cost to the Authority. The utilisation of the Dartmoor Rescue Groups in the first instance will ensure that the cost and impact of requesting National Assets is minimised as well as improving the speed of any initial response. The ability of the Dartmoor Rescue Groups to support this multi-agency approach will be much enhanced by the 4x4 vehicle capability that these Land Rovers provide.
 - In periods of severe weather, the Service is often requested to assist the NHS and other key organisations to transport key workers to and from places of work. The provision of the 4x4 vehicle capability that these Land Rovers provide will enable the Dartmoor Rescue Groups to assist us in this process and allow the Service to retain its assets for emergency response during these periods of high demand.
 - The Service is exploring utilising the skills and capabilities of the Dartmoor Rescue Groups to assist at remote rural and 'wildland' fires. The Dartmoor Rescue Groups have a high level of knowledge regarding access, navigation and topography in areas where the Service is often challenged when tackling wildland fires. The provision of the 4x4 vehicle capability that these Land Rovers provide will enhance the ability of the Dartmoor Rescue Groups to assist the Service in these difficult locations with the skills and knowledge that they possess.
- 3.4 An appropriate agreement to affect the transfer of ownership and all future liabilities would be drawn up between the Authority and the Dartmoor Rescue Groups.

4. AUTHORISATION

- 4.1 The Authority's Financial Regulations require that the disposal of any material asset or the writing off of any redundant stocks and equipment (individual item or cumulative amount of the same item) in excess of £25,000 but less than £50,000 is authorised by the Resources Committee.

MIKE PEARSON
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