

Executive Decision Making by an Officer with Delegated Powers

Decision to be taken by: Colin Chick, Executive Director for Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure.

Pursuant to an Authorisation from Cabinet on 21/09/2022: Procurement of Specialist Vehicles GFRS

Report title: The Purchase of an Aerial Ladder Platform Vehicle – Award of Contract.

<p>The decision</p>	<p>Following the conclusion of a mini-competition process under Lot 4 of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Aerial Appliances DS339-20 Framework Agreement for Emergency Response Vehicles, in respect of a call-off contract for the supply of an Aerial Ladder platform vehicle, and having consulted with Chief Fire Officer and the Cabinet Member for Fire, Community Safety and Libraries in accordance with the Cabinet Decision dated 21st September 2022:</p> <p>DECISION</p> <p>To award a call-off contract for the supply of a 37metre Aerial Ladder Platform Vehicle to the preferred tenderer namely Angloco Limited.</p>
<p>Background documents</p>	<p>Cabinet (21/09/2022): Procurement of Specialist Vehicles GFRS</p>
<p>Reasons for the decision</p>	<p>To enable Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service (GFRS) to replace an ageing Aerial Ladder Platform that has exceeded its useful service life.</p>
<p>Resource implications</p>	<p>The Contract Value is £781,787 for this vehicle, including operational and mechanical training requirements.</p> <p>It is confirmed that the bid received from Angloco is affordable from the existing approved capital programme and with the vehicle chassis and build expected to cost between £748,211 to £781,787. The reason for the range of costs is due to the supplier sourcing certain elements of the vehicle build from Europe and therefore paying its supplier in Euros. This means the exchange rate will be fixed on the day the order is placed. We have shown the cost as at the bidding price at an exchange rate of €1.08 Euros to the Pound and the rate on the 1st of May 2024 which was €1.16 to the Pound.</p> <p>The project can be funded from the existing GFRS capital project for Fleet Aerial Ladder Platform which has £750,000 of budget available and was approved as part of the MTFs 22-23 Capital programme. The remaining cost</p>

	<p>of £21,217.00 (dependent on exchange rates), can be funded from the GFRS Y-0025-05234 Fire Appliance & Equipment Capital programme which has a small surplus of funding.</p> <p>Payments to be made through 4 stage payments over the period of 2024/25 & 2025/26.</p> <p>Equipment will be supplied for the vehicle by GCC/GFRS from re-use of equipment from the current appliance and new equipment as part of the project.</p>
<p>Who has been consulted?</p>	<p>Internal support services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Services • Strategic Procurement • Finance • Communications • Information Management Service • Sustainability (for climate change and ecological considerations) • Mark Preece, Chief Fire Officer Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service • Cllr Norman, Cabinet Member for Fire, Community Safety and Libraries
<p>What were their comments?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Services: Drafting advice in connection with this report has been provided to the report's author. • Strategic Procurement - SP is satisfied with the compliance of the process exercise and with the outcome of the procurement process. • Finance – content that sufficient funding is available to cover the cost of the scheme. • Communications – Communications have no additional comments. • Information Management Service – IMS have no additional comments. • Sustainability (For climate change and ecological considerations) – A CIAT has been completed and positive outcomes towards climate have been flagged such as reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, fossil fuel energy use and improvements in air quality. Areas flagged as negative towards climate include sustainable materials sourcing, however it should be noted due to the nature of equipment used for this project, this is unlikely to be possible in all areas. 	

- Mark Preece, Chief Fire Officer Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service - I am fully supportive of the Officer Decision Paper.
- Cllr Norman, Cabinet Member for Fire, Community Safety and Libraries - Happy to support as Cabinet have supported the professional advice of the CFO that GFRS requires a new ALP to ensure that we have the operational capability to carry out rescues from height and fight certain fires from above, utilising the appliance in water tower mode.

Background/Context

The Corporate Fleet Unit (CFU) has identified through an ongoing replacement programme a need to replace an Aerial Ladder Platform Vehicle for Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) as the vehicle is ageing and will be at the end of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) recommended life cycle.

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Cabinet gave approval to procure an Aerial Ladder Platform Vehicle at Cabinet on 21st September 2022.

Approval was given to:

- Use the NFCC Emergency Response Vehicle Framework Agreement (managed by Devon and Somerset FRS) under Lot 4 which is for Aerial Appliance Vehicles.

The NFCC Framework Agreement for Emergency Response Vehicles was identified as the most suitable framework to use in the procurement of an Aerial Ladder Platform Vehicle for the following reasons:

- The framework agreement was established in response to the Government's aim for greater collaboration across Services. It was delivered through a Project Board comprising specialist resources with significant market experience in engineering, procurement and financial and legal matters from several Fire and Rescue Services nationally.
- It is fully compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- It is available for use by all UK fire and rescue services and their agents.
- It is free of any framework fees, levies, charges, or rebates.
- It is supported with dynamic contract management. This includes supplier audits, compliance to certified testing regimes, a review of financial health, ownership, key personnel, mergers and compliance with general terms and conditions.
- It contains a list of quality assured suppliers who have demonstrated their ability to supply to UK requirements.

The contract terms and conditions require the vehicle build process to be completed within 24 months of the date of the order. The anticipated start date for ordering is 24th June 2024.

The CFU and a working group made up of GCC and GFRS personnel created the vehicle specification which was approved by GFRS Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

There were considerable discussions regarding the reach of the vehicle as the current Aerials only extend to 32 meters. This limits the capability of the current Aerials when conducting rescue at height and at horizontal. However, after the working group work was concluded, a decision paper was presented to GFRS SLT to request additional capability to any new Aerial to 37 metres. This operational requirement was then reflected in the specification.

The criteria for the award of contract were based on Quality (50%), Price (35%), and Social Value (15%).

There was one bid received in total, this was evaluated and scored against the above criteria and vehicle specification.

There was no standard selection questionnaire evaluation undertaken as this tender was through a framework.

The Quality Evaluation was undertaken, and Evaluators independently scored the Tenderer response. This was followed by a moderation meeting where Evaluators discussed and agreed a final score for this response.

Social Value was completed by our external provider – The Social Value Portal (SVP). Tenderers were asked to register with SVP and were provided with a link to the project specific area. Any Tenderer was invited to select the social value measures they could offer and provide written evidence of ability to deliver those proposals. The measures the Contractor have committed to include hiring one disabled person on the contract, career support, local school visits, training opportunities, work placements, initiatives to combat modern slavery, donations or contributions to local community projects, and staff volunteering to support local community projects.

The tender was evaluated by, CFU, GFRS and SVP; moderation was managed by Strategic Procurement.

The successful tenderer is Angloco Limited who was evaluated against the evaluation framework set out in the tender.

Alternative options considered and why they were rejected

Alternative Option – Do not award the contract

This option is not recommended as to not award would delay any replacement of an old and ageing vehicle for GFRS and risk failure of this vehicle. Failure of vehicles could risk the ability to carry out GFRS's Statutory Obligations under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. Any new procurement would require resource and availability to conduct this. Any delay would not guarantee a saving and could result in higher index prices, and the outcomes of a future procurement could be the same.

Risk Analysis

If GCC does not replace the current oldest Aerial Ladder Platform Vehicle, this vehicle could suffer a terminal failure due to its age exposing GFRS, GCC and the public to unacceptable levels of risk. Both current ALPs are either at the end of their expected working life, or approaching the point that are against industry standards in which they should have been replaced by. There is a very clear risk to the Authority that either appliance could experience a significant mechanical failure potentially at the same time, which removes our aerial capability from the County for either a short or long-term period of time depending on the nature of the failure.

Vehicles which are off the road due to mechanical issues decrease GFRS's ability to meet its Statutory Obligations under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

Procurement of GCC vehicles through a bespoke framework minimises the procurement risk to GCC by maintaining legal compliance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Delays in procurement of the new Aerial Ladder Platform Vehicle could result in higher costs through price index rises, increased costs running ageing vehicles and increased cost of any short-term hire provision.

Vehicle manufacturing lead times are significantly longer than has been the case historically and there is a medium to high risk that the delivery period will be longer than expected.


Delays in replacing older more polluting euro standard engine vehicles for newer greener euro standard vehicles would likely impact the ability to meet the council's carbon reduction planning and contribution to meet National Targets, and to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Equalities considerations

An equality impact assessment has been completed, with no significant issues identified. The report author does not believe there are any equality implications.

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been completed? Yes [Published Here](#)

If 'Yes', please see attached the signed Equality Impact Assessment.

<p>Has any conflict of interest been declared by any Cabinet Member consulted on the decision?</p> <p><i>The council's Monitoring Officer should be consulted, in the first instance, if any conflict of interest is declared by a Cabinet Member.</i></p> <p>If any conflict of interest declared, was a dispensation granted by the Audit and Governance Committee of the Council?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Date of dispensation: N/A</p>
<p>Does this decision report form or any supporting papers provided contain confidential or exempt information?</p> <p><i>(Refer to Democratic Services Unit for advice if necessary)</i></p>	<p>No</p> <p><i>If Yes, please provide details of document(s) that are confidential or exempt</i></p>
<p>Does this decision need to be published on the GCC website?</p> <p><i>(Refer to guidance on "Executive Decisions taken by Officers").</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>In coming to this decision I have given due and full regard to the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty contained in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ("the Act") by reference to the law itself and also the relevant Equality Impact Assessment, which was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>Having fully considered all available information, I have decided to reject any alternative options and take the recommended decision(s), for the reasons set out in this report.</p> <p>Signed: </p> <p>Name: Colin Chick</p> <p>Title: Executive Director for Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure</p>	
<p>Date: 20 May 2024</p>	
<p>Contact details for further information:</p> <p>Officer: John Townsend – Corporate Fleet Unit Manager</p> <p>Tel: 07557 213424</p> <p>Email: john.townsend@gloucestershire.gov.uk</p>	