

**Proposed Officer Key Decision to be taken
on or after 31st October 2012**

**Contract for Breathing Apparatus, Carbonaceous Training and
General Refresher Training**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer, Graeme Smith

Recommendations

- 1) That the Chief Fire Officer for Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service approves proceeding with a tender for the provision of Breathing Apparatus contract, with effect from 1st April 2013.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Authority currently spends circa £60,000 on Carbonaceous Training and up to £150,000 on Breathing Apparatus refresher training – a combined spend of £210,000 per annum.
- 1.2 Training requirements are currently secured following request for quotes from suppliers known to the Authority under two separate contracts.
- 1.3 Provision of training is defined as a Part B service within the EU Procurement Regulations and this, coupled with our expenditure in this area means that the full EU regulations in relation to how procurement is undertaken apply.

2.0 Options

- 2.1 In order that we can continue to place training for the delivery of Carbonaceous Training and General Refresher Training, we need to establish formal, EU compliant training contracts. We intend to establish a range of framework contracts covering Warwickshire.
- 2.2 With a view for these contracts to commence as soon as practicably possible in 2013 given the time constraints of the EU procurement process.
- 2.3 The proposed new contract will run alongside collaboration working with Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service to enable both Fire and Rescue Services to align their contracts for the future.
- 2.4 There are no existing arrangements (ESPO etc.) that we can use.

3.0 Potential savings for WCC

3.1 Unable to quote savings at this stage due to unknown costs, but this is a mandatory requirement for WFRS to provide this type of training.

4.0 Summary and Conclusion

4.1 The level of spend on the Breathing Apparatus training for Carbonaceous training and General Refresher training requires Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service to tender the provision in accordance with contract standing orders and EU procurement legislation.

4.2 In order to maximise the efficiency of the contracting process, the proposal is to enter in to a two-year framework agreement contract with the provision to extend the contract up to a maximum of 24 months subject to funding and Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Fire and Rescue service discretion (let as a framework call off agreement).

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 That the Chief Fire Officer for Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service approves proceeding with a tender for the provision of Breathing Apparatus contract with effect from 1st April 2013.

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