

Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities & Community Safety

Tuesday, 4 June 2024 at 1.00 pm

Room 3 - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this [Live Stream Link](#).
However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

Items for Decision

The items for decision under individual Cabinet Members' delegated powers are listed overleaf, with indicative timings, and the related reports are attached. Decisions taken will become effective at the end of the working day on 11 June 2024 unless called in by that date for review by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

Copies of the reports are circulated (by e-mail) to all members of the County Council.

These proceedings are open to the public



Martin Reeves
Chief Executive

June 2024

Committee Officer: **Democratic Services Team**
committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Note: *Date of next meeting: 2 July 2024*

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Items for Decision

1. Declarations of Interest

See guidance below.

2. Questions from County Councillors

Any county councillor may, by giving notice to the Proper Officer by 9 am two working days before the meeting, ask a question on any matter in respect of the Cabinet Member's delegated powers.

The number of questions which may be asked by any councillor at any one meeting is limited to two (or one question with notice and a supplementary question at the meeting) and the time for questions will be limited to 30 minutes in total. As with questions at Council, any questions which remain unanswered at the end of this item will receive a written response.

Questions submitted prior to the agenda being despatched are shown below and will be the subject of a response from the appropriate Cabinet Member or such other councillor or officer as is determined by the Cabinet Member, and shall not be the subject of further debate at this meeting. Questions received after the despatch of the agenda, but before the deadline, will be shown on the Schedule of Addenda circulated at the meeting, together with any written response which is available at that time.

3. Petitions and Public Address

Members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection.

Requests to speak must be submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting. Requests to speak should be sent to committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk .

If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the technology fails, then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9 am 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

4. Fire and Rescue Service Appliance Tender (Pages 1 - 6)

Cabinet Member: Public Health, Inequalities & Community Safety

Forward Plan Ref: 2024/111

Contact: Matt Chapman, Group Manager Business and Transformation
(matt.chapman@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Report by Corporate Director for Public Health **(CMDPHICS4)**

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to:

- a) **Approve the delegation of contract award decision for the provision of Pumping Appliances, to the Corporate Director for Public Health, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, having followed a fully compliant procurement process.**

Councillors declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed 'Declarations of Interest' or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (i.e. payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member 'must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself' and that 'you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned'.

Members Code – Other registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your other registerable interests then you must declare an interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person's quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

Other registrable interests include:

- a) Any unpaid directorships

- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority.
- c) Any body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

Members Code – Non-registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under other registrable interests, then you must declare the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

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Divisions Affected –

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, INEQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

4 June 2024

Contract Award for the provision of Pumping Appliances (aka Fire Engines)

Report by Corporate Director for Public Health

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities and Community Safety is RECOMMENDED to:

- a) To approve the delegation of contract award decision for the provision of Pumping Appliances, to the Corporate Director for Public Health, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, having followed a fully compliant procurement process.**

Executive Summary

1. This paper details the funding and requirements specific to Pumping Appliances only, while the attached Fleet Strategy document provided for context, covers the entirety of the OFRS fleet.
2. The proposed contract will be for the call off of an indicative volume of pumping appliances, with no obligation to purchase in line with those indications.
3. All other streams of fleet and equipment work are captured in separate tenders and governance programs.
4. It should be noted that, having presented the “OFRS Fleet Strategy” containing a request for increased funding to cover the spend detailed within this paper to OFRS SLT, this recommendation has been agreed to go forward for OCC consideration.

5. The requested delegated authority to award will not become relevant until the tender process is completed, this tender process will not commence until funding has been confirmed.

Business Need

6. The National Fire Chiefs Council Transport Officers Group (NFCC TOG) which is made up of Fleet Managers and Engineers nationally across the Fire Sector share experience, technical knowledge and recommended standards for Fleet, these ensure that the Fleet are suitable for Fire Services across the UK are able to fulfil their statutory duty. 81% of UK Fire and Rescue Services maintain their fleet for up to 15 years and 100% of that membership recommend having a fire service fleet that includes no greater than 15-year-old Fire Engines (appliances) meet today's industry needs (See table below).
7. NFCC TOGs recommendations for the lifecycle of a Fire Service Fleet are:
 - Pumping Appliances 13 to 15 years (with up to a further year in the case of youth training schemes).
 - Special Appliances such as aerial ladder platforms and prime movers 15 to 20 years
 - Support vehicles Pool cars, Vans, Motorcycles and 4x4's up to nominal 6 years up to 8 years depending on condition.
 - Ladders linked to appliance life. (Maximum 18 years which also means if you extend the life of an appliance beyond 18 years, the ladders will also need replacing)
8. From this it was agreed that any OFRS appliance breaching its 15-year lifespan would be considered to have breached the recommended period of use.

Overview

9. Asset lifecycles have previously been set for each group of vehicle types used within Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service (OFRS). Improvements in vehicle design and construction have allowed vehicle lifespan to be increased moderately without effecting service delivery. However, our planned 15-year appliance lifecycle has already been increasing towards 18 years, due to previous non-replacement of vehicles and previous budget reductions and pressures. Operating an aging fleet significantly increases periods of unavailability due to breakdowns and/or major repairs and increases the time workshops spend on unplanned maintenance which can lead to outsourcing of certain fleet repairs or servicing. The increased workload has an impact on the capacity of the team and the costs of maintaining our vehicles, with an ageing fleet becoming much more expensive to maintain over 15 years old. There is also an added risk of parts becoming unavailable due becoming obsolete.
10. In order to counteract the downtime from the extended operating life of the vehicles, an increased number of spare appliances will be required.

Financial Implications - Budget - Whole Life Costs

11. The below details the costs associated with OFRS spend only.

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 Onwards
Planned Expenditure	£	£	£	£
Appliances	1,680,000	1,713,600	873,900	891,400
Funding available				
Income from sales	36,000	36,700	18,700	19,100
Core budget	759,000	759,000	759,000	759,000
Reserve b/f from previous year	2,222,500	1,337,600	0	0
(-) surplus/shortfall	(1,337,600)	572,500	691,600	719,300

Proposed purchases per year*

	Total No. of Fleet - Current	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Appliances	46	6	6	3	3

(*The purchases are to replace vehicles in the current fleet not to increase the volume)

12. Conventional appliances should be purchased until at least 24/25 by which time projects and technology relating to Hydrogen Fuel Cell and Electric (with or without conventional range extender) appliances should have developed to the standard required for formal operational assessment. However, the provision of Hydrogen Appliances will not be serviced through this contract, a separate tender will produce a separate contract.

13. In 26/27 we will have a number of 18-year-old appliances to which we will again need to review the number of spares we have for resilience. With the new Fleet Management system, we will be able to analyse the utilisation of spare vehicles and analyse the downtime relative to vehicle age for all appliances.

This section has been checked by: Stephen Rowles, Strategic Finance Business Partner (Stephen.Rowles@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Legal Implications

14. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004:

- (1) A fire and rescue authority must make provision for the purpose of—
- (a) extinguishing fires in its area, and
 - (b) protecting life and property in the event of fires in its area.

(2) In making provision under subsection (1) a fire and rescue authority must in particular—

(a) secure the provision of the personnel, services and **equipment necessary efficiently to meet all normal requirements.**

(b) secure the provision of training for personnel.

(c) make arrangements for dealing with calls for help and for summoning personnel.

(d) make arrangements for obtaining information needed for the purpose mentioned in subsection (1);

(e) make arrangements for ensuring that reasonable steps are taken to prevent or limit damage to property resulting from action taken for the purpose mentioned in subsection (1).

15. The procurement of the pumping appliances will be conducted in compliance with the Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

16. This section has been checked by: Jayne Pringle, Head of Law and LBP (Contracts & Conveyancing) (Jayne.Pringle@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Equality & Inclusion Implications

17. In planning, delivering, monitoring and evaluating this tender, equality and diversity issues will be appropriately considered from the outset.

18. The tender process and subsequent awards will be screened for relevance against our statutory duties to promote equality and raise no concerns for any of the nine protected characteristics.

Risk Management

19. In completing a fully compliant tender in line with PCRs and CPRs, the Council will mitigate risk of challenge for the purchase of Pumping Appliances.

Ansaf Azhar
Corporate Director for Public Health

Background papers:



Fleet Replacement
Strategy v2.3.docx

Contact Officer:

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