

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 27 November 2017

**AT-STINGER (WATER TOWER VEHICLE)
(Appendix 1 refers)**

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Executive Summary

Members of the Fire Authority have supported the evaluation of a new Fire Appliance that incorporates a Water Tower function. The vehicle has been supported through its design and operation between LFRS and Rosenbauer. The vehicle known as the AT-Stinger has been on trial for 33 weeks. It has operated as one of Blackburn Fire Stations Frontline Fire Appliances.

The evaluation of the appliance has previously been presented to the Fire Authority Strategy Group and a copy of the evaluation report is appended to this paper.

Recommendation

Due to the success of the evaluation and with particular regard to enhancements in firefighter safety and firefighting capability it is recommended that Members support the introduction of the AT Stinger Appliance into the frontline Fire Appliance fleet.

Two options are presented with regard to the number of appliances and their disposition:

1. Purchase 2 AT-Stinger Appliances and replace the standard existing Fire Appliances at Blackburn and Skelmersdale (as part of the fleet asset management plan). This option provides an enhanced aerial capability of 2 Water Towers and 4 ALPS
2. Purchase 3 AT-Stinger Appliances and replace the standard existing Fire Appliances at Blackburn, Skelmersdale and Nelson (as part of the fleet asset management plan and acknowledging the ability to extend the life of the 2004 Aerial Ladder Platform). This option provides an enhanced aerial capability of 3 Water Towers and 4 ALPS.

Information

The AT-Stinger Appliance has been on trial at Blackburn Fire Station for over 33 weeks. The appliance acts as a standard frontline fire appliance but has the additional capability of providing a water tower function. Other features include a piercing branch and a far larger pumping capability (5500lpm as opposed to 2000lpm). The increased capacity and remote operation has provided significant advancements in operational capability and improved firefighter safety. The trial has been well received by operational staff that have both utilised the appliance and contributed to its evaluation and development.

Given the lease on the existing water tower runs out this year it is proposed to purchase this within the current financial year from capital and this is referred to in the financial monitoring report being presented to resources committee at the end of the month.

Currently our Aerial capability is delivered by 4 Aerial Ladder Appliances that are alternatively crewed according to demand. The AT-Stinger appliance would complement this aerial capability whilst having the added advantage of being permanently crewed.

Business Risk

The addition of the AT-Stinger appliance is considered to have the following business benefits:

Improving firefighter safety through remote firefighting thereby reducing the number of firefighter time spent in the risk zone (e.g. working at height or in a fire compartment).

Faster fire containment and extinguishment thereby reducing the damage to properties and reducing the amount of time Firefighters are engaged in operational activity.

Reducing the number of fire appliances engaged at an incident through enhanced pumping capability.

Environmental Impact

It is considered that business benefits identified above will also yield positive environmental benefits.

Equality & Diversity Implications

No additional implications.

HR Implications

None

Financial Implications

The net additional capital expenditure dependant on option is around £0.8m which will be borne through existing capital budgets alongside appropriate adjustments to the Fleet Asset Management Plan.

For reference, individual appliance costs are: ALP £0.6m, WT £0.5m, Standard Fire Appliance £0.2m.

The cost of purchasing the existing leased vehicle is £0.4m and will be met from either an additional in-year revenue contribution to the capital programme or from capital reserves as being reported to Resources Committee at the end of the month.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
Reason for inclusion in Part 2, if appropriate:		