

## **LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

Meeting to be held on 13 December 2021

### **STRATEGIC AERIAL APPLIANCE REVIEW**

Contact for further information:

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*Table 1 Executive Summary and Recommendations*

#### **Executive Summary**

This report provides an update on the proposals brought to the Authority in relation to the replacement of the 4<sup>th</sup> aerial appliance presently based at Preston fire station.

In December 2020 the CFA approved “the purchase of a turntable ladder (TTL) to replace the 4th Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) (subject to further evaluation of 32m and 42m options)”.

Following completion of an evaluation exercise in relation to the options available within the marketplace and their potential suitability for meeting tall building risk in Lancashire, the findings suggest that the Service should look to procure a replacement Aerial Ladder Platform as opposed to the Turntable Ladder option that was originally proposed.

#### **Recommendation(s)**

The Authority is asked to note the Service intention to go to market for a replacement Aerial Ladder Platform within the existing budget provision.

### **Background**

LFRS has a history of Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) preference, but given the opportunity to reflect on sector learning, such as Grenfell Tower and the more recent Cube incident in Manchester, it was both pertinent and prudent for the Service to review available aerial appliance options presently available in the marketplace and consider their suitability for use in managing built environment risk in Lancashire.

That work has now been concluded in Service and focused upon vehicle characteristics rather than specific manufacturers or vehicle types. In exploring what the market had to offer, the Service considered factors such as:

- Height of reach
- Horizontal outreach
- Ability to deploy below ground
- Appliance length and manoeuvrability
- Speed of deployment with water
- Operational implications associated with deployment
- Steering options
- Accessibility of risk locations and likely extent of reach

- Rescue cage capacity and acceptable load restrictions
- Cage versatility and functionality

Whilst a number of demonstrator vehicles were observed and each had a variety of positive features, similarly some had limitations that would constitute concessions being made by the Service.

Overall, the 45 metre Aerial Ladder Platform demonstrated the most favourable characteristics, in terms of the potential to best mitigate tall building risk in Lancashire.

In summary, it would offer the highest reach, the longest outreach (beneficial when pitching over smaller buildings / obstructions), the deepest below-ground capability and negligible difference in time to deploy with water when compared to turntable ladder options. Similarly, the versatility, manoeuvrability and capacity of the rescue cage outstrips TTL options.

The 45 metre Aerial Ladder Platform provides the opportunity to acquire the greatest ALP capability currently available in the UK. As such, the Service now intends to go to market to procure a suitable Aerial Ladder Platform replacement vehicle.

### **Business Risk**

High – Changes to legislation and regulation of the built environment are significant. The emergence of new learning from incidents nationally prompts the Service to consider our current appliance capabilities and disposition. The ability to respond quickly and effectively to life risk in all building types including tall buildings, is a significant priority and failure to do so may present high reputational risk to the Combined Fire Authority.

In the residential or commercial setting, LFRS has a proven ability to deliver an efficient and effective operational response to larger fires and these proposals seek to ensure that risk arising from such incidents does not increase.

### **Environmental Impact**

Low – reduced vehicle emissions rates expected in line with technological advancements.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

Equality Impact Assessment demonstrates that an ALP offers more positive applications in certain incident types thus benefiting members of our communities.

### **HR Implications**

None

### **Financial Implications**

Within budget previously agreed by CFA.

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**  
**List of Background Papers**

*Table 2 Details of any background papers*

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