



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Executive Committee
DATE OF MEETING	21 September 2016
OFFICER	Neil Boustred, Head of Service Delivery
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Phil Gomm
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Options for Decommissioning of the Incident Response Unit
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>On 9 December 2015 the Service was informed by CFOA National Resilience of the decision to reduce the national provision of Incident Response Units (IRU) from 65 to 43. The IRU based at Broughton was one of 22 that would be decommissioned effective from 31 December 2015. This paper proposes how the Authority responsibly decommissions this asset.</p> <p>Based on the fact that the asset no longer forms part of the National Resilience operational planning assumptions, and the Service's Fleet Manager, supported by Service Delivery, do not foresee any need or benefit in retaining the chassis and mounted forklift truck (FLT); do nothing, is not considered to be a viable option.</p> <p>In summary the remaining options are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The rigid frame MAN chassis vehicle complete with FLT is decommissioned as a FRS asset and sold (10,000 miles recorded). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identified specific equipment is retained within the Service and placed on appliances. Other equipment and stocks are stored within Brigade stores to replace consumables. b. Any remaining equipment is sold off or donated to another service which has been allowed to retain an IRU. 2. The chassis vehicle, with FLT and all equipment, is donated to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as a complete IRU unit. <p>Whilst it is recognised that there are potentially other permutations of the aforementioned options which can be considered and delivered these are considered to be the most viable.</p>
ACTION	Decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>It is recommended that the following be approved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The rigid frame MAN chassis vehicle complete with forklift truck be decommissioned and sold. 2. Identified specific equipment be retained within the Service and placed on appliances. 3. Other equipment and stocks be stored within Brigade stores to replace consumables. 4. Any remaining equipment be sold off or donated to another service which has been allowed to retain an IRU. 										
RISK MANAGEMENT	<p>The removal of this asset presents a very low risk for the Corporate Risk Assessments/Register status.</p> <p>A local capability will continue to remain alongside the arrangements for requesting mutual, regional and national support.</p> <p>There is also a change away from wet decontamination to dry peel decontamination for non-caustic substances which can still be undertaken by BFRS crews and initial operational response guidance has been issued for this procedure.</p> <p>The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service has provided an assurance that they will legally and responsibly dispose of any items not required for further use. There are no costs for BFRS associated with the collection or disposal of this equipment.</p>										
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	<p>The estimated value of the IRU as of 31 March 2016 (including equipment) stands at £122,121.</p> <p><u>Vehicle and Fork Lift Truck</u></p> <table data-bbox="630 1377 1348 1635"> <thead> <tr> <th>Asset</th><th>Net Book Value of Asset</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chassis - SN: 106627/01659/20047</td><td>18,631.97</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fork Lift Truck-Fleet No. IRU075</td><td>8,414.63</td></tr> <tr> <td>Completion of IRU- IRU075</td><td>13,974.06</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td><u>41,020.66</u></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Whilst the net book value of the chassis and FLT is £41,021, in the opinion of the Service's Fleet Manager it is unlikely to achieve this price if sold or auctioned off. The net book value is an accounting value held by the Authority based on the figures provided by DCLG when the assets were donated.</p> <p>It must be noted that the IRU and its associated assets were donated to the Authority at nil cost by DCLG</p> <p>If the vehicle and FLT is retained, the Authority will inherit the service and maintenance costs. Previously these costs were funded externally by Babcocks. However as CFOA decommissioned the use of the</p>	Asset	Net Book Value of Asset	Chassis - SN: 106627/01659/20047	18,631.97	Fork Lift Truck-Fleet No. IRU075	8,414.63	Completion of IRU- IRU075	13,974.06	Total	<u>41,020.66</u>
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	<p>IRU, these costs will no longer be funded.</p> <p>This will mean an annual service and quarterly inspection is required at an estimated annual cost of £3000. The FLT will also need to be added to the Zurich Assurance LOLA regulations inspection regime.</p> <p>Furthermore if the chassis and FLT were retained, the Authority would need to provide Fork Lift Truck operator courses. An initial course is one week long and requires an instructor and three candidates. Following completion of an initial course, each FLT operator is required to complete a one day refresher every 3 years.</p> <p><u>Equipment and Assets</u></p> <p>The equipment on the IRU was issued to BMKFA at no cost to the Authority. It is proposed that the Authority retains specific and specialist equipment as identified by the Research, Development and Equipment Officer. His list has been compiled and is attached to this report.</p> <p>This, however, will still result in equipment and assets which the Authority would no longer need. Therefore a possible solution is to donate these assets to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.</p> <p>The net book value of these assets is listed below;</p> <table data-bbox="630 1131 1444 1467"> <thead> <tr> <th>Asset</th><th>Net Book Value of Asset</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Module Decon Struc Port Kit 1 - IRU075</td><td>64,287.33</td></tr> <tr> <td>Comms Data-DV09140 - IRU075</td><td>8,950.51</td></tr> <tr> <td>PRPS Suits - IRU075</td><td>5,540.18</td></tr> <tr> <td>Operational Flow Control Systems - IRU075</td><td>2,263.68</td></tr> <tr> <td>6000L portable reservoir - IRU075</td><td>58.35</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>81,100.05</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Asset	Net Book Value of Asset	Module Decon Struc Port Kit 1 - IRU075	64,287.33	Comms Data-DV09140 - IRU075	8,950.51	PRPS Suits - IRU075	5,540.18	Operational Flow Control Systems - IRU075	2,263.68	6000L portable reservoir - IRU075	58.35		81,100.05
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<p>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>The Authority's Contracts Standing Orders prescribe the methods of disposal of its assets. Further detail is contained in the Authority's Financial Instructions, paragraphs 15.10-15.14. If the estimated value is more than £2,500 the Executive Committee must approve the disposal.</p> <p>As a Local Authority the Fire Authority is obliged to obtain the best consideration available when it disposes of its assets.</p>														
<p>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION</p>	<p>The decision to rationalise IRUs is based upon an amount of modelling work undertaken by the DCLG analytical units. The final outcome has been agreed by the DCLG and the CFOA CBRN(e) strategic lead. Neighbouring FRS's including Royal Berkshire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and London will</p>														

	retain their IRU's.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	<p>The retention of IRU capability in neighbouring Services continues to provide resilience and protection for our firefighters and members of the public. In addition a local capability in the form of the Operational Support Units and Environment Protection Unit, utilising equipment from the IRU, provides additional resilience on an immediate response and therefore any health and safety risks are negligible.</p>
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	<p>No equality and diversity issues.</p> <p>A People Impact Assessment has not been completed.</p>
USE OF RESOURCES	<p>Due to the high value, Member approval would be required before the Authority can dispose of any of the equipment.</p> <p>A national directive was issued in December 2015 by CFOA and DCLG communicating the changes in the provision of this capability.</p> <p>There is no impact on the medium term financial strategy.</p> <p>If agreed The Authority will retain specific and specialist equipment as identified by the Research, Development and Equipment Officer. This equipment will be kept to enhance the current capability whilst reducing the need to replace some equipment and maintain a mass public and Firefighter decontamination capability.</p> <p>The Authority could consider donating the remaining equipment to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) to enable them to maintain a resilient mass decontamination capability. The SFRS are not affected by these changes and have contacted BFRS to enquire if we can donate unwanted equipment to enable them to build their stock. They have provided an assurance that they will arrange collection and delivery of any equipment off the IRU not required by BFRS. They will then legally and responsibly dispose of any items not required for further use.</p> <p>Whilst the vehicle and assets remained within the national assets programme, the programmed maintenance schedule and training costs were covered by contractors with no cost to the Authority. If the Authority looks to utilise the vehicle and fork lift truck, it will inherit those maintenance and training costs.</p> <p>The Brigade Engineer does not foresee a current use for this vehicle and fork lift truck to provide a capability for the Service and Authority. The Service has two Operational Support Units (based at</p>

	<p>Broughton and Marlow) which have been in service since 2010. The Service also has an Environment Unit based at Aylesbury since 2016. These vehicles are capable of maintaining a local capability for decontamination.</p> <p>This proposal will reduce the fleet base by one vehicle and as a result there will not be a need to send candidates to complete specialist training including fork lift truck driver and mass decontamination instructor courses.</p> <p>The management of the asset base will change as the Authority retains the identified assets and inherits the maintenance costs of the equipment retained and stored on its appliances and sites.</p> <p>Due to the value of these assets and to comply with Authority standing orders, the Fire Authority will need to approve these proposals.</p>
<p>PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>CFOA National Resilience Information Note 35-2015 09/12/15</p> <p>CFOA National Resilience Information Note 36-2015 09/12/15</p> <p>CFOA National Resilience Letter to All England CFO's / Chief Executives 15/03/16</p>
<p>APPENDICES</p>	<p>Appendix A: Response Policy – Inventory of IRU equipment with highlighted equipment for retention by BFRS.</p>
<p>TIME REQUIRED</p>	<p>10 minutes.</p>
<p>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</p>	<p>Tim Parkins tparkins@bucksfire.gov.uk 01908 665567 / 07770 564706</p>