

## **Report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Director of Prevention and Assets**

### **Fleet Strategy Update**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. To provide an update for Members on the current Fleet Strategy.
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#### **Recommendation**

***It is recommended that the Fleet Strategy update be noted.***

#### **Introduction and Background**

2. The purpose of the Fleet Strategy is to provide a 5 year structured approach to vehicle management that ensures that HWFRS continues to provide and maintain the right vehicles in order that our staff can undertake their jobs effectively, and is in line with the mission, purpose and Service strategies.
3. HWFRS aims to maintain a high standard of fleet provision through continual improvement, evaluation and investment. The current Fleet Strategy was developed in 2015 to cover the period 2016 to 2021 and has been updated annually. The current document covers a five year period from 2021/22 to 2025/26 (see **Appendix 1**), and a full review of the current strategy is underway to ensure that it aligns with the new core strategies, and this will be published in 2022.
4. In September 2016 Members were asked to approve the revised Fleet Strategy (2016-2021). At that meeting Members noted that the Fleet Strategy would be reviewed annually and the Committee would receive further updates at the January meeting each year, aligned to the budget setting processes. Councillor Phillips, as Chairman of a fleet task and finish group that considered fleet issues earlier in the year, noted that the strategy was in accordance with the task and finish group's findings.

#### **Fleet Strategy Update**

5. The table below outlines the predicted fleet replacements based upon the current fleet assumptions and aspirational fleet replacement ages.

	2021/22	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
<b>Red Fleet (fire appliances)</b>	4 Fire engines "2005 Scania's"		6 Fire Engines "2008 MAN's"		6 Fire Engines "2010 Scania's"
<b>Red Fleet (specialist appliances)</b>	2 x RAV's "carried fwd"	1x Argo Cat		USAR crew bus 2 x Water Carriers Pending review	
<b>Responding Officer Cars</b>		30 (may increase to 36)	6 (may be procured in 2022/23)		1 USAR K9 van
<b>White Fleet (vans &amp; cars)</b>	3 x cars 2 x small vans 2 x cars carried fwd	7 x 4x4 Pickup trucks	1 x Large van BA		5 x Cars
<b>Estimated costs</b>	£1,833,148	£1,295,000	£2,047,400	£572,500	£1,952,543

6. The estimated costs shown are included in the capital budget planning agreed annually with the Director of Finance and Senior Management Board.

#### Current Year 2021/22

7. The Service has four new Scania fire engines in build which will replace 4 no. 55 registration plate fire engines. These are due for delivery in early 2022, two of which have been designed to hold specialist animal rescue equipment based at Pershore and Bromyard fire stations.
8. A new Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) is also due to be delivered in early 2022 and will replace the existing RAV based at Whitchurch fire station.
9. To complement the pilot of two new compact fire engines that commenced at the end of 2020, a new 4 x 4 compact fire engine with the addition of a compressed air foam system (CAFS) is currently being built. This vehicle will be tested at Ross-on-Wye fire station and is due to be delivered February/March 2022.
10. An evaluation of replacement responding officer cars is currently underway, together with appraisals of electric small cars and vans to replace seven white fleet vehicles.
11. As detailed in the strategy it is important to regularly assess the current lifespans of the fleet to determine whether it is beneficial to reduce or extend these lifespans further. The replacement of a vehicle may be determined (increased or decreased) based upon a number of considerations; such as the type of vehicle and any bespoke built elements, costs of maintenance, residual value, public perception and image, financing and any other cost related matters over the life of the vehicle. As detailed in the updated Fleet Strategy appendix, replacement dates have been extended for; the two Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALPs) by 5 years and the three Land Rovers following a review of condition. The revised replacement year for all five vehicles is now 2026/27.

## Conclusion/Summary

12. The purpose of the fleet strategy is to provide a 5 year structured approach to vehicle management. The current fleet strategy was developed in 2015 to cover the period 2016 to 2021 and is updated annually. A full review of the current fleet strategy is underway to ensure that it aligns with the new core strategies, and will be published in 2022.
13. The Service currently has four new Scania fire engines in build, together with a Restricted Access Vehicle and a 4 x 4 compact fire engine, all due for delivery in early 2022. The fleet team are also evaluating replacement responding officer cars, together with the replacement of seven white fleet diesel vehicles with electric cars / vans.

## Corporate Considerations

<b>Resource Implications</b> (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues).	Estimated costs shown are included in the fleet capital budget plans.
<b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	The structured approach to fleet management underpins Service strategies.
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	None.
<b>Consultation</b> (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter).	None.
<b>Equalities</b> (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	None.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b> (where personal data is processed a DPIA must be completed to ensure compliant handling)	None.

## Supporting Information

Appendix 1 - HWFRS Fleet Strategy dated Nov 2021 v8.1