



LONDON FIRE
AND EMERGENCY
PLANNING AUTHORITY

Report title

Supplementary Report: Procurement process for the Authority's Vehicles and Equipment Contract and the Protective Equipment Services

Meeting

Resources Committee
Authority

Date

17 March 2014
27 March 2014

Report by

Director Finance and Contractual Services
12 March 2014

Document Number

FEP 2237A

Public

Summary

This report supplements FEP 2237 (agenda item 17) and sets out officers' response to the attached Unison report – *High Risk Outsourcing of a Critical Fire Service, Protective Equipment Group: London Fire Brigade*.

Recommendation

That the supplementary report be noted.

Background

1. The report, *High Risk Outsourcing of a Critical Fire Service, Protective Equipment Group: London Fire Brigade*, attached as Appendix 1 to this supplementary report was produced by the European Services Strategy Unit of the Centre for Public Services on Unison's behalf.
2. The report, received by officers on 10 March 2014, sets out Unison's position on any proposed outsourcing of the Protective Equipment Group.
3. Officers have agreed with Unison that the report is referred to the Resources Committee and full Authority meetings and for officers to respond by noting the contents of the report and giving an assurance that they will address the contents of the report with UNISON as part of the business plan for PEG, subject to officers' recommendation to keep PEG in house being agreed by the Committee.

Conclusion

4. Officers note the report including Unison's recommendation 1 on page 5 of the report that PEG services should be retained as an in-house service which is in accordance with the recommended option following the re-procurement exercise as detailed in FEP2237 and FEP2237X.
5. FEP2237 suggests that should the recommendation to retain the service provided by PEG in-house be agreed then a business plan will be developed for the in-house operation which will include further improvements and efficiencies. Officers will work with PEG, Unison and the other representative bodies on the development of this plan and in doing so address the other recommendations set out in this report. It should be noted as part of this that recommendations 7, 8 and 9 specifically address actions upon any new employer. They will therefore not be relevant to this business plan on the basis that this will follow on from the Committee's agreement to retain the service provided by PEG in-house

Head of Legal and Democratic Services comments

6. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services has advised on the re procurement of the Vehicle and Operational Equipment and Maintenance Services and is satisfied that the procurement has been carried out properly in accordance with the competitive dialogue procedure set out in the Public Contracts Regulations 2006.

Director of Finance and Contractual Services comments

7. There are no Finance implications in the content of this report.

Sustainability Implications

8. The Unison report notes concern regarding the use of Zero Hour Contracts by the private sector, which was the subject of a recent Authority question. Officers are contacting suppliers to improve the transparency of the use of these contracts within the Authority's supply chain and have drafted requirements to include in future contracts to prevent their inappropriate use.
9. The Unison report recommends improvements to the maintenance of skills of PEG staff through the introduction of an apprenticeship scheme. The enhancement of skills and employment within the Brigade and the supply chain will support the Mayor's skills and employment targets.

Staff Side Consultations Undertaken

10. The representative bodies have been consulted regularly throughout the procurement process and the report at Appendix 1 sets out Unison's position to any Outsourcing of PEG.

Equalities Implications

11. There are no equality implications in the content of this report

List of Appendices to this report:

1. *High Risk Outsourcing of a Critical Fire Service – Protective Equipment Group: London Fire Brigade* (Unison report).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985	
List of background documents FEP 2237	
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