



Decision Note

Decision Note – Purchase of Fire Appliances 2025/26 and 2026/27

REQUEST FOR DECISION BY THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

	Policing:	Crime:	Fire & Rescue:
This decision relates to:			x

APPROVAL (for completion by Staffordshire Commissioner only)

Rationale for approval

This relates directly to the following priority in my Fire and Rescue Plan:

I will:

Ensure the right resources are available to respond to fires and other incidents, considering the balance between wholetime and on-call firefighters, generalist and specialist roles, shift patterns and working locations. Reviewing the vehicle fleet mix and associated crewing arrangements will form part of this process.

Staffordshire Commissioner

Signature

Date 23 October 2025

Date decision required by:

If an urgent approval is required, please state reasons:



For completion by Staffordshire Commissioner's Office only:-

Decision Number: SCF/D/202526/001

Date Received: 23 October 2025

	Yes	No
Has the required decision been considered under the guidance of the Staffordshire Commissioner's Decision-Making Policy?	✓	
Has the required decision been deemed to be a Key Decision as defined within the Staffordshire Commissioner's Decision-Making Policy?	✓	
Who is empowered to make the required decision? Staffordshire Commissioner		

Title	Purchase of Fire Appliances - Pump Rescue Ladders (PRLs)
Summary: This decision note refers to a decision paper presented to the Commissioner to purchase the next 4 Pump Rescue Ladders (PRLs). The orders being placed in 2025/26 for delivery in 2026/27. The purchase being funded by approved Fire capital and has been internally ratified by the Strategic Governance Board. Approval is now sought from the SCO, due to the value of the contract being over £1m.	
Recommendation: To approve the purchase of the next 4 Pump Rescue Ladders (PRLs) through a formal procurement tender exercise.	
Chief Executive I hereby approve the recommendation for consideration.	
Signature	Date 23 October 2025 



REPORT AND ADVICE TO THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

1. Introduction and background

During the autumn 2024 Joint Emergency Transport Services (JETS) worked with Emergency Response Team (ERT), Finance, Procurement and other stakeholders to review the Vehicle Replacement Programme (VRP) for Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Fleet. During this exercise the current fleet are assessed against factors including age, mileage and suitability for purpose. Replacement of existing appliances is part of the services replacement programme, allowing the disposal of vehicles which have reached the end of their life within Staffordshire.

From this work a 2025/26 Capital Budget (from herein known as the Capital Budget) was created and presented to the Capital Review Group (CRG) for consideration. After a number of meetings, the CRG agreed the request in principle and the Capital Budget was taken to the Office of The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for final sign off in February 2025 as part of the Capital Strategy paper presented to the Police Fire and Crime Panel.

Capital budgetary approval has already been obtained as follows:

- Response Directorate Board
- Capital Review Board
- Service Delivery Board
- Strategic Governance Board

2. Issues for consideration

It is the intention of JETS and Procurement / Commercial Services that this procurement tender exercise will deliver a contract for the supplier to provide these four appliances with an option to supply *any number up to* six more (up to ten in total). It is the intention that this option would be 'time limited', possibly up to 36 months, and there would be no obligation to exercise this clause at all. This is similar to the contract signed between SFRS and Rosenbauer for the Enhanced Rescue Pumps (ERP). The contract was for two appliances and an option for *any number up to* three more. These were purchased and are currently in build.

3. What other options have been considered?

Due to the age and condition of existing PRL's a do-nothing option has not been considered as viable at this time.

4. Consultation and Engagement undertaken

The options to procure the next 4 PRL's has been through extensive Governance as required by the Staffordshire Commissioner:

- Response Directorate Board



- Capital Review Board
- Service Delivery Board
- Strategic Governance Board

Report Implications

5. Monitoring Officer comments:

Due process considered and followed

Signature

Date 23 October 2025

6. Section 151 Officer comments:

The funding for the 4 PRL's has been fully incorporated into the capital programme and MTFS update. I am supportive that the next 4 appliances are procured through the agreed procurement process.

Signature

Date 20 October 2025

Yes

No

Has legal advice (outside of that provided by the Monitoring Officer) been sought on the content of this report?

X

7. Legal Comments:

Where available, and practicable, frameworks are used in the purchase of fleet. This allows Commercial Services to drive better value for money at reduced prices. It is also worth noting that all tenders from late February will fall under the new Procurement Act 2023 (unless through a framework which falls under PCR2015).

8. Risks - please give the details of any operational or strategic risks that are affected by this decision (add risk reference number and title below)

It is essential that the Service maintains a fleet of vehicles that are fully fit for purpose, capable of meeting the operational demands of a modern Fire and Rescue Service. A structured replacement programme is in place to ensure the fleet remains modern, professional, and aligned with the high standards expected of today's emergency response environment.

Operating an older fleet places demand upon JETS as the risk of mechanical failure increases. This results in more 'off road unavailable' time. Obtaining parts for older fleet can be problematic and more expensive if the structured replacement programme is not followed. A fire appliance has an operational life of around 15 years



9. Equality Comments – please attach the completed EIA N/A		
10. Background/supporting paper 		
Please answer the following questions	Yes	No
11. Public access to information?		X
12. Does this decision involve the processing of personal data? (If yes please attach a completed Data Impact Assessment)		X
13. Is the publication of this form to be deferred? (If yes approx. how long?)		X
14. Does this form contain commercial or operationally sensitive information which is to be redacted? (If yes, please provide details with the submission of this note)		X

15. ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Author	David Greensmith	
Signed		
Date	20 October 2025	