



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Policy and Strategy Committee

DONATION OF 'END OF LIFE' FIRE APPLIANCES

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 29 April 2016

Purpose of Report:

To request that Members give consideration to the donation of two 'end of life' fire appliances to volunteer fire services in two rural locations in Croatia.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name : John Buckley
Chief Fire Officer

Tel : 0115 967 0880

Email : john.buckley@notts-fire.gov.uk

**Media Enquiries
Contact :** Therese Easom
(0115) 967 0880 therese.easom@notts-fire.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 For a number of years the Authority has supported various voluntary operations to give an extended life to fire appliances that are considered to be at the end of their useful life within the UK, and no longer fit for purpose.
- 1.2 This support has resulted in a number of appliances being donated and transported overseas for a second life in disadvantaged countries around the world. Last year a similar project delivered an appliance to Croatia and two to Nepal.
- 1.3 This report brings forward a request to donate a further two appliances which will be transported to Croatia to be used by volunteer firefighters. The current vehicles they have in use are over 35 years old and are significantly substandard when compared to UK appliances that are ready for disposal.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 A small number of employees, both past and present, have volunteered their time, resources and energy to support a number of overseas colleagues by way of securing appliances and equipment considered to be at the end of their useful life within the UK Fire and Rescue Services.
- 2.2 Recent projects have led to the overseas delivery of both fire appliances and ambulances together with a significant amount of spare parts and operational equipment. This gives the vehicles and equipment a second lease of life for use in disadvantaged countries, and makes a significant impact on those local communities.
- 2.3 This latest project involves 6 NFRS volunteers and seeks to provide a pair of Dennis Sabre fire appliances to two sparsely populated rural communities in Varazdin County Croatia. At present the two areas are covered by volunteer firefighters with existing appliances that are over 35 years old.
- 2.4 In total the volunteer firefighters provide critical fire cover to 15 villages with a total population of approximately 5,700 people. The cover provided in such a rural location is critical to the safety and protection of the area.
- 2.5 As well as the two vehicles, a quantity of obsolete equipment has also been secured from other UK fire and rescue services, and it is proposed that this will be transported on the appliances.
- 2.6 On arrival in Croatia the appliances will be handed over to the local communities and two days of training will take place to ensure that the volunteer firefighters are able to safely put the new equipment and appliances to effective use.

- 2.7 The two appliances considered for donation are wholly owned by the Authority and have an estimated value of £2-3k each as there is no viable second hand market for the vehicles. In fact, due to security reasons the vehicles would most likely need to be fully decommissioned and sold for spares and scrap.
- 2.8 The Freight Transport Association and ATS Tyres are supporting the project and will provide breakdown and puncture repair cover, and local businesses in Croatia have donated 2000 euros to cover ferry, fuel and toll costs for the journey. There are no issues regarding export or import of the vehicles.
- 2.9 The team will require 3 days to drive the vehicles the 1500 miles to the destination and will be provided free accommodation along the way by other European fire and rescue services.
- 2.10 The appliances will remain the property of the Authority until handover and will be covered by the service's vehicle insurance within the existing policy parameters.
- 2.11 The team will cover all of their own direct costs for the journey including travel insurance, food and flights back to England. The project will take a total of 6 days and it is proposed to grant each of the 4 currently serving employees 50% of the time as special leave.
- 2.12 Subject to approval, the trip is planned to take place from the 26 to 31 May 2016, and one of the team members will be in attendance at the committee meeting to provide a very short presentation to Members and answer any questions.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The only financial consideration is the potential revenue that could be secured from the local disposal of the two appliances. This would be in the region of £4-6k.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific human resources or learning and development implications arising from this report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken as this report does not seek to change policy or service provision.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The team will be acting as volunteers in their own time, however as they will be travelling in and using Authority appliances and equipment and with the authorisation of the Authority, they will be considered to be 'at work' and will therefore be covered by the Authority's Employers' Liability insurance. The Authority also has personal accident and travel insurance in place.
- 8.2 Risk assessments have been undertaken to consider all aspects of both the overland journey and the delivery of training to the volunteer firefighters. The activity does not present any greater risk than what is normally undertaken during day-to-day activities.
- 8.3 As the overland journey will take three days, all of the team are qualified drivers and two are trained HGV mechanics. Four of the team are current or previously qualified fire and rescue service trainers. One of the team members is multi-lingual and further interpretation services have been secured in Croatia. The Authority's motor insurers have confirmed that use of the appliance in Croatia, and those countries transited during the journey are covered under the current motor insurance policy.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members agree to support the project and donate two end of life Dennis Sabre Appliances to Varazdin County in Croatia.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER