

Circular number	59/2007	Date issued	10 December 2007
This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular provides information about the review of the National Procurement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service including Firebuy Ltd		

Review of National Procurement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service including Firebuy Ltd

Issued by:

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Fire and Resilience Policy Division

Addressed to:

The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer

Please forward to:

Chairs of Regional Management Boards
Directors of Finance
Treasurers

Summary

CLG is undertaking a review of the National Procurement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service and how it is delivered and funded. This will include reviewing the role and resources of Firebuy Ltd. The Review will report by 31 March 2008.

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 The National Procurement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) 2005 – 2008 was published in November 2005 and set out the importance of procurement in delivering a modern and efficient service. The strategy recommended the establishment of a body to undertake national procurement on behalf of the FRS. Firebuy Ltd was therefore set up in March 2006 to take forward the national strategy.
- 1.2 Firebuy Ltd is responsible for carrying out fire-specific procurement by negotiating contracts for FRAs and taking the lead in subsequent contract management. Firebuy Ltd supports FRAs in achieving standardisation and interoperability and works with suppliers to ensure goods and services meet the needs of the FRS.
- 1.3 The National Procurement Strategy is now due for review. The Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) has at the instigation of CLG, set up a task and finish group to look at the next strategy. The group is made up of representatives from the FRS, procurement professionals, Regional Centres of Excellence and the Fire and Rescue Suppliers Association.
- 1.4 Initial funding for Firebuy Ltd was provided by CLG (then ODPM) for the 2 years 2006/7 and 2007/8. Revenue generated by Firebuy Ltd contributes towards its costs and will increase in importance as it becomes established. There remains a need for on-going funding support for Firebuy Ltd in 2008/9. The review will consider future funding for national procurement following a consultation on options undertaken earlier in 2007 with the FRS.
- 1.5 A Procurement Capability Review of CLG undertaken by a team from the Office of Government Commerce looked at the full range of procurement functions undertaken by the Department. This included national procurement for the FRS and the role of Firebuy Ltd.
- 1.6 CLG is therefore proposing to undertake a review of national procurement in the FRS including the role of Firebuy Ltd, commencing in December 2007 and reporting in March 2008. The review will consider the future national procurement strategy for the FRS; how the national procurement role should be funded now and in the future; and the role, resources and performance of Firebuy Ltd.

2.0 Further information

- 2.1 For further information on the revision of the National Procurement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service and the Firebuy Ltd review please contact: fsed6@communities.gsi.gov.uk.
- 2.2 For further information on Firebuy Ltd please contact their website: www.firebuy.gov.uk.