

Sale of FPV ENFORCER

Officers' Recommendation

That the Authority agrees to sell D&S IFCA Patrol Vessel '*Enforcer*'

Background

D&S IFCA currently has two operational RIBs. The older of the two RIBs, built in 2003, is the patrol vessel FPV ENFORCER. FPV ENFORCER is a 6.4 metre Tornado RIB with twin outboard engines.

D&S IFCA will be required to renew the MCA coding certificate for FPV ENFORCER in August 2024. To satisfy the requirements of the MCA survey, FPV ENFORCER will be required to have some significant modifications. The MCA coding requirements will mean that the transom will need to be built up to provide sufficient freeboard (240mm). In addition to the transom work, to provide sufficient freeboard, the twin outboard engines will need to be replaced to reduce the power and weight and will need to have long shafts. Replacing the twin outboards alone is estimated to cost at least £20,000.

The continued service of FPV ENFORCER has been reviewed twice in recent years. In 2023, Members were made aware that the vessel was nearing the end of service and consideration was given to replacing her as part of D&S IFCA's five-year Capital Asset Replacement Strategy. It was agreed that replacing FPV ENFORCER would only be a consideration if sufficient external funding was made available. Officers are not aware of any available funding that would provide sufficient funding to support the purchase of a new replacement RIB.

Operational requirement and costs

Following the procurement of the FPV DAVID ROWE, and the installation of IVMS devices across the mobile gear sector in 2018, the need for FPV ENFORCER has reduced. In addition, the decision to freeze recruitment means that the enforcement team has been reduced from six to five officers. This reduces the availability of crew to operate both vessels as a minimum of three officers are required to undertake boarding work at sea. Enforcement records for the previous two financial years show that in the year 2021/2022 FPV ENFORCER was used on a total of 12 occasions. During 2022/2023 that reduced further to eight occasions.

The main benefit of having FPV ENFORCER is to provide a sea going capacity in the event that FPV DAVID ROWE is out of service. In addition to the annual running costs, estimated at £5,500 (insurance, moorings, fuel, maintenance etc) the requirement to spend a significant amount of additional money in 2024 reduces the justification to keep the vessel.

Similar to the arrangements with CIFCA to undertake survey work on behalf of D&S IFCA, in the event that FPV DAVID ROWE was out of service, D&S IFCA could reach out to CIFCA, Southern IFCA and the Environment Agency and look to charter vessels.

Recommendation

Officers are of the opinion that due to the age of the vessel, the increased maintenance costs, the freeze on recruitment and reduced usage, it would be appropriate to sell FPV ENFORCER prior to the MCA coding renewal in August 2024.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers

- D&S IFCA Five Year Capital Replacement Strategy
- Authority meeting minutes - 13th June 2019
- Authority meeting minutes – 15th June 2023

End.