Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority

Record of an Authority decision delegated to an Officer as required under Regulation 7 of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulation 2014

Subject of decision	Award the supply and delivery of 32 Officers Cars to Volvo Car UK Ltd to be delivered before January 2027. The contract was awarded as a Direct Award under RM6244 Purchase of Standard and Specialist Vehicles Lot 4: Bluelight Cars and Motorcycles (Emergency Services) from the Government Comercial Agency (GCA), a national public sector procurement framework. The Authority intends to replace up to 32 vehicles (Volvo XC60 B5 Authority Specification MY27) in the 2026/27 financial year. The following table below provides an indication of potential volumes, subject to budget and Integrated Risk Management Plan. • Provision of 32 Officer Vehicles in 2026/27 (To be delivered by January 2027)
Officer name	Jon Butlin
Job title	Area Commander – Prevention
Date decision taken	15th October 2026
Reasons for the decision	The procurement of replacement officer vehicles forms part of the Fleet Plan 2026-2030 and supports the scheduled renewal of the current fleet as vehicles reach the end of their operational lifecycle. Following a review of operational requirements, it has been determined that the procurement of 32 officer response vehicles will sufficiently meet the Service's current and foreseeable operational needs. This level of provision will maintain response capability, officer availability, and business continuity arrangements. The revised requirement represents a reduction from the 34 vehicles originally included within the Fleet Replacement Plan and reflects a more accurate assessment of demand based on current operational and workforce requirements. The Authority has already reduced its fleet from 36 vehicles since the previous procurement in 2024, in line with a reduction in officer numbers, and the proposed purchase is considered proportionate and aligned with current service needs. Government Commercial Agency (GCA), a national public sector procurement framework; is the preferred route to market as it offers a wide range of options and suppliers with heavily discounted public sector specific products. This framework also significantly reduces the costs and capacity otherwise required to undertake a full open procurement (tender) process. This framework complies with all appropriate and relevant legal requirements. Alternative procurement frameworks available to the Fire and Rescue sector were considered; however, these generally offer similar compliant procurement routes and supplier access, with no clear

	advantage identified in terms of value for money, competition or delivery. A review of the current officer vehicle specification was undertaken to ensure that future vehicle procurement remains aligned with the Service's current and foreseeable operational requirements, risks and strategic objectives. The review identified several mandatory operational requirements that all shortlisted vehicles would need to satisfy, including: • All wheel drive capability. • Rapid Defrost and Demist Windscreen & Mirrors • SUV-style body configuration providing appropriate ground clearance. • Five-star Euro NCAP safety rating. • Sufficient load carrying capacity for officer equipment and specialist PPE. • Reliable performance in operational use. • Appropriate manufacturer and dealer support arrangements. • Suitability for emergency service conversion work. Following an evaluation 14 Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles available through the GCA framework, however the Volvo XC60 B5 Authorities Specification and Škoda Kodiaq SE 2.0 TDI DSG 4x4 emerged as the most suitable vehicle options that met the Service's final vehicle specification. Based on the purchase price, potential future re-sale value assessment and with a greater annual financing saving, the preferred option for the next responding officer's vehicle is the Volvo XC60 B5 Authorities Specification.
Details of decision	Following a comprehensive review of the GCA framework, assessment of alternative powertrains, meeting the specification requirements the evaluation of final supplier quotations, the Volvo XC60 B5 Authorities specification is identified as the preferred vehicle solution. While the Škoda Kodiaq remains a credible alternative, the preferred vehicle provides the better overall value for money. Benefits of the Volvo XC60 B5 Authority Specification include: • Lower purchase cost • Lower financing cost • A warranty package that meets the 2026-30 Fleet Plan replacement programme (4 years as opposed to 3) • Strong evidence of value retention and lower depreciation risk • Established blue-light conversion arrangements with the opportunity to re-use existing blue light equipment • Dedicated emergency services support The Volvo XC60 B5 Authorities MY27 will be procured using the same specification for all Officers (Station Commander to Principal Officer)

	and it is proposed that the entire fleet will be replaced within the financial year 2026/27. Contract Value £1,063,168 based on 32 cars in 2026/27 (VAT included) Vehicle Price £26,958.33 (inc £3,350 discount) Dark Tinted Rear Windows £333.33 Climate Pack £625 Warranty 4 Years /100,000 miles PDI & Delivery £682.50 First Registration Fee £55 Total £33,224 per vehicle (inclusive of VAT) Two installers recommended by Volvo as part of the procurement process are Halls electrical and Hodsons. A full specification sheet along with requirements and instructions were sent to both companies together with a request for pricing and timescales. Both suppliers were asked to supply a breakdown of parts, labour and costs for the four different parts of the project as below; 1. Cost of moving a car from their installation centre to Ops logs 2. Cost of fully de-kitting a current car either at their location or at Ops Logs, "their choice" 3. Cost for purchasing a full set of equipment and fully installing it 4. Cost of reusing most of the current equipment, but with some specified new equipment and fully installing it. Based on costs and build availability Hall are the successful supplier The contract was awarded as a Direct Award under RM6244 Purchase of Standard and Specialist Vehicles Lot 10: Conversion of Bespoke and Specialist Vehicles from the Government Comercial Agency (GCA), a national public sector procurement framework. Conversion Cost £187,582.40 based on 32 cars £5,861.95 per vehicle.
Details of alternative options considered and rejected (if any)	N/A
Any interests declared by a Member or Officer	N/A
Links to relevant background documents or information	Fleet Plan 2026-30 Purchase of Standard and Specialist Vehicles - GCA Officer Vehicle Summary Report Appendix 1



Signed… Date: 26th October 2026