

From: Assistant Chief IFCO

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority –  
30 January 2024

Subject: Procurement of new cabin RIB

Classification: **Unrestricted**

**Summary:** This paper updates members on the progress to procure a new cabin RIB

**Recommendations:**

To **NOTE** actions taken so far.

*Introduction*

Defra funding has been made available to IFCAs as part of a domestic funding stream for the duration of the SR21 period for capital replacement of IFCA vessels. This takes place through the National Shipbuilding Office (NSO) which oversees all government spend on new vessels. Kent and Essex IFCA have in place proposals for procurement of a cabin RIB, with £300,000 of funding available.

The purpose of the vessel is to replace Vigilant as the primary enforcement vessel in Brightlingsea. It is then proposed that Vigilant be moved to Kent and be moored in Ramsgate, initially on a trial basis, to allow officers to conduct more resource efficient and lower fuel usage patrols, when staff availability is restricted or when the patrol allows for it. This would cut costs on fuel budget for Nerissa and also reduce the carbon footprint of vessel operations in Kent.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023, a KEIFCA Technical Panel was convened to discuss the funding available for the vessel, the current fleet and the potential useful working life of each vessel and to make recommendations to the Authority. On 21 November 2023, the Authority accepted those recommendations.

*Tender Process*

A vessel build at this value is required to go through a tender process and also have a business plan submitted to the funding scheme, both of these things have very similar requirements and can be undertaken in tandem. The tender process

needs to have been completed and approved by the Authority by the end of the 2023/24 financial year in order for KEIFCA to claim against the domestic funds.

Officers have been in liaison with the KCC procurement team and the National Shipbuilding Office, holding meetings with both. Significant amounts of work have been undertaken due to updated and improved procurement processes within KCC since the last time KEIFCA procured a vessel. All the required tender documents have been drafted and are just undertaking a final KCC internal review prior to the tender being published on the KCC ProContract system. The NSO will then also be highlighting the tender to all boatyard on their records to enable as many tenders as possible to be received.

It is intended that the tender will be published before the end of January. The tender needs to run for 30 days, following which all tender responses will be evaluated by officers, in line with KCC procurement requirements. Following evaluation, an extraordinary Authority meeting will be held to discuss and approve the evaluation and recommendations from officers. This meeting is anticipated to be held at the end of March and Members will be notified of the expected date as soon as the tender has been published.

**Recommendations:**

To **NOTE** actions taken so far.