

# NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

REPORT NO.  
7

## MARITIME ASSET REVIEW

**Purpose:** To provide members with options for future replacement of the Authority's maritime assets.

**Recommendations:** Members vote to approve Option 2 of the appended report.

### 1. Background

Head of Enforcement, Joseph Moulton, has led on the formulation of the appended report, with input from myself. The report assesses the current status of the Authority's maritime assets and their suitability for the work we do. It then sets out some options for the future in terms of continued use of these assets and their eventual replacement.

### 2. Future Financing Options

This item seeks a strategic direction from members as to the future intentions for the replacement of our three patrol vessels. Depending on the outcome of this item, I will then be looking to bring a financial proposal to members, initially via our Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee, to set out our options for how we might cover the costs of any future replacements. To provide some initial indication here for members' consideration (particularly our councillors'), our financing options can be broadly categorised as follows:

1. Use of Authority cash reserves, although this would require a significant increase in our constituent councils' future levies to ensure we have future funds for other capital asset replacement.
2. A one-off capital investment from our constituent councils, using the current funding formula as a basis for respective amounts required.
3. A financing agreement with one constituent council on a 'hire purchase' type arrangement, whereby said council provides the capital and the Authority repays it over an agreed period in the form of commensurate levy reductions for said council, or simply via annual 'recharges'.

Please note, Defra have recently informed all IFCA's that there will be no capital CDEL funding provided to IFCA's by central government for the foreseeable future, so this is no longer a financing option available to the Authority. AIFCA is exploring with Defra other potential funding sources, but pursuing central government funding is not a viable option for the Authority currently.

At this stage, officers are only seeking a decision on the strategic operational direction the Authority should take with its maritime assets; financing decisions will be made via the relevant committee meetings in the near future.

*Mark Taylor, North Western IFCA CEO, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025*