

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



MEETING	Executive Committee
DATE OF MEETING	13 July 2016
OFFICER	Julian Parsons, Head of Service Development
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Andy Dransfield
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The Fire Authority received a briefing paper on this programme at the meeting held on 10 February 2016 where the decision was made for this Authority to formally sign up to the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme.</p> <p>Further work has now taken place within the South Central Transition Group (SCTG) to ensure the smooth transition of this region to the Emergency Services Network.</p> <p>This briefing paper updates Members on the progress of the project to date.</p>
ACTION	Information.
RECOMMENDATIONS	Members are requested to note the report.
RISK MANAGEMENT	<p>To supplement the identified risks and control measures within the programme and to ensure we consider risks to the Service, the programme has been added to the Service Development Risk Register. A risk register will also be maintained by the South Central Transition Group.</p> <p>There is currently an unknown financial risk to the Service in achieving the necessary Public Service Network (PSN) compliance. Currently it is believed that our costs would be met by Central Government as this is a burden imposed by the project. However, they have not yet committed to this undertaking in writing.</p> <p>In previous reports Members have expressed concerns around interoperability of different communication systems between services during the various transition phases. Assurances have been received through the central programme teams that the technology, referred to as Wave 3000, provides seamless interoperability between new and legacy</p>

	<p>systems.</p> <p>Members have also previously expressed concerns over network coverage for the new scheme. The position remains the same that the central programme team have made assurances that ESMCP would provide either the same or improved coverage. We are aware that a tender has been released by Central Government for a contract to provide the necessary infrastructure for required improvements.</p>
<p>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>During transition, BMKFA will still be expected to pay the costs of the current Firelink system but will continue to receive the associated New Burdens Grant.</p> <p>An initial analysis of the indicative figures presented in the document are difficult to challenge as there is little detail in how they have arrived at them, but at first look they seem to be reasonable. The costings for device refresh may be optimistic as it is possible the replacement devices may be closer to existing mobile phones. Our experience is these need replacing every two to three years and this document seems to suggest a five year programme.</p> <p>It is also unclear what the post transition support arrangements will be for ESMCP. Currently we receive direct support for Firelink at no cost for network and devices. The position post transition is unknown and there may be associated costs for device support.</p> <p>At the point BMKFA transfers over to the new system it will be expected to meet the associated costs. These are anticipated to be less than what we currently pay. DCLG have committed to provide funding through Section 31 Grants as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transition Support. To cover the costs of project management, training etc. A collaborative approach is encouraged and this is detailed in the section on collaboration below. • Control rooms and Public Services Network (PSN). To cover the costs of upgrading control rooms to the new system. • Vehicle Installations. This will be based on the number of fire appliances on a proportional basis for each authority. • Devices. The funding will be based on the cost of replacing existing devices. This funding will only be available during the transition phase and further equipment refreshes will have to be met from the Service's own budget. Any device purchases above and beyond current numbers or capacity would also have to be funded from the Service's own budget. The Service may want to consider doing so once the types of

	<p>equipment and capabilities are fully understood and any operational benefits assessed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Implementation Manager. DCLG will directly fund 10 regional implementation managers to coordinate and monitor the transition in fire and rescue services. <p>There is greater certainty as to the mechanisms around the refund to Services through the Section 31 Grant and this is detailed in the attached paper. BFRS will act as treasurer for the collaborative aspects of the project delivery.</p> <p>Government Digital Services have made a decision that all connecting Services should be fully Public Safety Network compliant across their whole service. This decision was not expected and has implications for the project nationally and locally. It is our understanding that as this is a new burden the costs will be met by government. The government have written a number of letters requesting information on required quotes for security checks and the financial implications of each services action plans. They have yet to confirm any intention to reimburse services in writing though.</p>
<p>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>The provision of fire communication systems is the legal responsibility of each individual Fire Authority. Although DCLG has not mandated each authority to sign up to ESMCP each fire and rescue service in the South Central region has done so.</p>
<p>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION</p>	<p>BMKFA is currently an active participant in the South Central Regional Transition Group. This group contains South Central Ambulance Service, Thames Valley Police, the three fire and rescue services in the Thames Valley plus Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Services.</p> <p>The group is chaired by the Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.</p> <p>Each participating service will receive DCLG grants which are pooled centrally to fund a central delivery team for all partners. This creates efficiency by way of a coordinated approach; elimination of duplication of work, and shared resources for programme management and delivery. The recommendation is that finance officers from BMKFA will take the lead for the monitoring of this central grant.</p> <p>External feedback from other boards and programme managers is that the SCTG has one of the most proactive and positive collaborative partnerships in the country.</p>
<p>HEALTH AND SAFETY</p>	<p>No Health and Safety implications perceived at this</p>

	time.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	No Equality and Diversity implications identified at this time.
USE OF RESOURCES	<p>BMKFA has appointed our Transformation Programme Manager to act as our programme manager for this project.</p> <p>BMKFA ICT Manager is to be the technical lead.</p> <p>Area Commander Service Development is the senior responsible officer for BMKFA and sits on the SCTG.</p> <p>BMKFA finance team will provide financial management support for the SCTG.</p> <p>The BMKFA Procurement Manager will act as procurement lead for appointing programme management services.</p> <p>BMKFA will take the lead role for the SCTG in the following work streams as part of the delivery board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Governance • Procurement (attracts £70K funding) • ICT • Operational Policy Alignment (this will be subsumed into the current collaboration work stream)
PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS	<p>Background</p> <p>The ESMCP is designed to replace the existing Airwave communications system for all emergency services and other agencies. It is often referred to as Firelink within fire and rescue services.</p> <p>The programme is designed to improve integration of emergency services communications by reducing cost and taking advantages of 4G telecommunications.</p> <p>The current national contracts with Airwave are due to expire in 2020 and cannot be extended any further.</p> <p>The roll out of the transition is based on ambulance service delivery areas. BMKFRS falls within the South Central Ambulance Service area.</p> <p>The preparatory work to design, build and test the Emergency Services Network (ESN) starts now. The period of transition for this region is due to take place in November 2017 and be completed by November 2018.</p> <p>Background Papers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESMCP Update May 2015 • ESMCP Update February 2016

APPENDICES	Appendix A: ESMCP – Fire Authority Update May 2016
TIME REQUIRED	10 minutes.
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