



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Executive Committee
DATE OF MEETING	8 February 2017
OFFICER	Julian Parsons, Head of Service Development
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Peter McDonald
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>This paper is to provide a further update regarding the national status of the programme and the impact on the regional and local transition.</p> <p>Since last reporting the main developments are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Central Programme Board has recently announced a series of delays to the project, initially slipping by three months, now extending to six months. • The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) recently reviewed the Programme following the publication of the National Audit Office (NAO) report. The report was published 25 January 2017 and the main findings were in line with the NAO report in that the risks of project overrun had been not fully assessed nor budgeted for. • After completion of a tender process, Mott Macdonald have been appointed by the South Central Region to provide Programme Management for the five fire services involved. • The continuing concern of officers is the lack of detailed information being released from the Central Programme and the compression of the timeframe allowed for the testing and assurance process.
ACTION	Information.
RECOMMENDATIONS	Members are requested to note the report.
RISK MANAGEMENT	<p>As notified in the last update, Members will be aware that this programme has been added to the Service Development Risk Register. There is also a risk register held and maintained by the South Central Transition Delivery Team.</p> <p>There remains an unknown financial risk to the Service with regard to achieving the necessary</p>

	<p>security information technology compliance. It is still believed that any costs to achieve this compliance will be met by the Central Programme as it will be a new burden, but this has still to be confirmed despite being raised for discussion at every opportunity.</p> <p>One area concerning officers is Emergency Services Network (ESN) devices. There has been a delay in the development of the promised range of devices and it is highly likely that only one of each type of device will be available to user organisations during the period of transition. Current indications are that these first generation devices may not meet originally advertised specifications. Feedback from user organisations is continually made in a bid to influence the end products.</p> <p>The NAO published a review of ESMCP in September 2016. The report highlights the risk involved with a programme that is attempting to implement technology that is not being attempted anywhere else in the world except South Korea. As a result, a lot of the technology is still being developed and therefore the assurances are yet to be seen. The NAO report sees the programme as being high risk and expresses concern that it does not appear on the Home Office national risk register.</p> <p>There has been some reassurance received with regard to network coverage. A hard copy of the proposed coverage for the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes areas has been received and whilst it highlights some known areas of historically poor communications coverage, the picture is generally good. Further detail will be provided once the delivery team gain access to the electronic maps which is expected shortly.</p>
<p>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>The Home Office (HO) have committed to provide funding through Section 31 Grants to cover local transition support, upgrading control rooms, vehicle installations and devices. BFRS will act as treasurer for the collaborative aspects of the project delivery.</p> <p>HO will directly fund ten regional implementation managers to coordinate and monitor the transition in fire and rescue services.</p> <p>Government Digital Services (GDS) have made a decision that all connecting Services should be fully Public Safety Network (PSN) 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.</p>

	They have yet to confirm any intention to reimburse services in writing though.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	As outlined within the last update paper to Members, each fire and rescue service within the South Central Region has now formally signed up to the ESMCP.
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION	<p>Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) remains an active participant of the South Central Transition Delivery arrangements. The governance and delivery models have now been established and BFRS are involved at each level. The principle has been adopted that information is shared across all five services and where appropriate, joint responses to work requests are submitted.</p> <p>Funding awards have been pooled centrally, and BFRS are now acting as treasurers for the region.</p> <p>BFRS officers are proactively involved in all areas of the collaboration and lead on three of the eight work streams.</p>
HEALTH AND SAFETY	There are no health and safety implications perceived at this time. There is constant review of this and any issues that may arise in the future will be referred.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	There have been no equality and diversity implications identified to date. As the programme progresses and further information becomes available, then an Integrated Impact Assessment will be completed.
USE OF RESOURCES	<p>As stated in the last update to Members, the Transformation Programme Manager is the Project Manager for ESMCP delivery.</p> <p>The Area Commander Service Development is the Senior User for this Authority and sits on the South Central Steering Group.</p> <p>This Authority is providing officers to lead in three workstreams of the South Central Region Transition Team - ICT, Procurement and Finance, and Operational Policy (who is also the lead for Operational Alignment within the Thames Valley collaboration programme).</p>
PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS	<p>Background</p> <p>The ESMCP is the programme to provide the next generation of mobile communications for emergency services and will replace the Airwave Tetra network introduced to fire services in 2009.</p> <p>The Programme is considered to be ground breaking and innovative and is designed to improve the integration of emergency services communications by taking advantage of 4G communications developments and by reducing costs to user organisations.</p>

	<p>The current national Airwave contracts are due to be terminated at the end of December 2019.</p> <p>The period of transition for the South Central Region was originally planned to take place between November 2017 and November 2018. These dates are now under review and a revised plan is due to be released following the review completion.</p> <p>Background Papers</p> <p>ESMCP Update June 2015</p> <p>ESMCP Update February 2016</p> <p>ESMCP Update July 2016</p> <p>Public Accounts Committee Report</p>
<p>APPENDICES</p>	<p>Appendix A: ESMCP Executive Committee Update February 2017</p> <p>Appendix B: National Audit Office Report Summary</p> <p>Appendix C: ESN Programme Update – December 2016</p> <p>Appendix D: National Programme Governance Structure</p> <p>Appendix E: ITHC Remediation Plan Costings Summary</p>
<p>TIME REQUIRED</p>	<p>10 minutes</p>
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