



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

<b>MEETING</b>	Executive Committee
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	12 July 2017
<b>OFFICER</b>	Julian Parsons, Head of Service Development
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Councillor Peter McDonald
<b>SUBJECT OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP)</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<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"> <li>• The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) recently recalled the Home Office Programme representatives following their last review of the Programme.</li> <li>• The delay reported to the Programme in the last report to Members has now been extended to 9 months. A revision is being carried out to the National Plan – this will not be available to User Organisations until the end of July 2017 at the earliest.</li> <li>• It has been recommended by the PAC that the Home Office must urgently seek assurances that both Motorola and Vodafone will continue to provide a communications service up until the point of full ESN transition in 2020.</li> <li>• There continues to be some concern that regarding the provision of an ESN solution that will work underground. Until the Emergency Services working in London receive assurances that this service will work effectively, it is unlikely that they will transition which may impact the programme timelines further.</li> <li>• The continuing concern for officers is the lack of detailed information being released from the centre regarding devices and the compression of the timeframe allowed for the testing and assurance process.</li> </ul>
<b>ACTION</b>	Information.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	That the report be noted.

<p><b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b></p>	<p>It was reported in the last paper to Members that there was an unknown financial risk to the Service with regard to achieving the necessary 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. This remains a risk to the service and is still raised at every opportunity in order to receive assurances.</p> <p>The PAC recalled Home Office Programme officials in March 2017. A number of recommendations have since been made regarding the arrangements that Motorola and Vodafone will have in place to ensure that the existing Airwave system remains fully functional up until the point of transition completion in 2020.</p> <p>It should be noted that the delay to the programme reported in the last update to Members has now been extended to 9 months.</p> <p>The PAC has also expressed concern that the Home Office department has not yet finalised how ESN will work underground. It has recommended that <i>'Transport for London and the Department must, as a matter of urgency, work together to ensure that there will be coverage that enables the emergency services to contact each other underground. It needs to ensure that there are no delays to reaching an agreement with suppliers as this may have knock-on effects on the programme.'</i></p> <p>It was reported to Members in the last paper that a significant area of concern for officers is that of 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. This continues to be a major concern and the matter is raised continually at every opportunity.</p>
<p><b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b></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>The programme board is continuing to take a prudent approach to use of the Section 31 grant. To date the only funds that have been committed are to fund the external programme support costs. No funding will be allocated to individual services until the revised programme delivery plan is issued. The Authority, as</p>

	<p>the finance lead for the South Central region, will then work with our external partner to develop a fully costed implementation plan.</p>
<p><b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b></p>	<p>Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service have already signed up to the principles of the Emergency Services Network. Officers will continue to monitor the progress of the Programme closely and will provide challenge to the process where it is felt necessary.</p>
<p><b>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE</b></p>	<p>This Authority remains an active participant of the South Central Transition Delivery arrangements. The governance and delivery models have now been established and Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service officers 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>The Head of Service Development is the Vice Chair of the Regional Strategic Board as is also the Fire representative on the equivalent Police Board.</p> <p>Funding awards have been pooled centrally, and Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service are now acting as treasurers for the region.</p>
<p><b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>USE OF RESOURCES</b></p>	<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 – in ICT, Procurement and Finance, and Operational Policy (who is also the lead for Operational Alignment within the Thames Valley collaboration programme).</p>
<p><b>PROVENANCE SECTION &amp; BACKGROUND PAPERS</b></p>	<p><b>Background</b></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><b>Background Papers</b></p> <p><a href="#">ESMCP Update June 2015</a></p> <p><a href="#">ESMCP Update February 2016</a></p> <p><a href="#">ESMCP Update July 2016</a></p> <p><a href="#">ESMCP Update February 2017</a></p>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	Appendix A: ESMCP Executive Committee Update July 2017
<b>TIME REQUIRED</b>	10 minutes.
<b>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</b>	<p>Marie Crothers</p> <p><a href="mailto:mcrothers@bucksfire.gov.uk">mcrothers@bucksfire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>07765 001907</p>