

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



MEETING	Executive Committee
DATE OF MEETING	22 November 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 provides Members with a further update regarding the national status of the programme and the impact on the regional and local transition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national infrastructure, which is the responsibility for EE to deliver to the programme is on target and broadly meeting the milestones. • The national transition plan was supposed to be published for services to scrutinise in July. It is now likely that this will not be ready until New Year 2018. • The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) are due to scrutinise the progress of the project in November. They have particularly asked for details of the revised delivery plan and also the likely costs of further programme delays.
ACTION	Noting.
RECOMMENDATIONS	That the report be noted.
RISK MANAGEMENT	<p>It has been reported in previous papers 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 Public Accounts Committee 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. The PAC is scheduled to reconvene on 13 November 2017.</p>

	<p>It was reported to Members in the last paper that a significant area of concern for officers is that of 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. This continues to be a major concern and the matter is raised continually at every opportunity.</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. Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (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 the finance lead for the South Central region, will then work with our external partner to develop a fully costed implementation plan.</p>
<p>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</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>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE</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>An approach has been received from the South Central and South East regional Programme Co-Ordinator for Police to organise a workshop with fire services within the regions to discuss collaboration opportunities. This will then</p>

	<p>form the basis of an options paper to be put to both sets of ESMCP governance boards to decide what could be delivered together in the region. A representative from BFRS will be attending this workshop.</p>
HEALTH AND SAFETY	<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>
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	<p>There have been no equality and diversity implications identified to date. As the programme progresses and further information and a confirmed plan become available, then an Integrated Impact Assessment will be completed.</p>
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 – in 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 July 2016</p> <p>ESMCP Update February 2017</p> <p>ESMCP Update July 2017</p>
APPENDICES	<p>Appendix A: ESN Programme Board update – August 2017</p>

Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme

	Appendix B: ESN Programme Board update – October 2017 Appendix C: BFRS Highlight Report – July 2017 Appendix D: Synopsis of Programme Developments.
TIME REQUIRED	10 minutes.
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	Marie Crothers mcrothers@bucksfire.gov.uk 07765 001907