



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Fire Authority
DATE OF MEETING	17 December 2014
OFFICER	Greg Smith, Head of Service Development
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Andy Dransfield
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) Programme
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>At its meeting on 22 October 2014 the Authority noted the progress of the TVFCS programme. The stated 'cut over' go-live date was given as 10 December 2014.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to update the Authority that the 'cut over' go-live date has now moved to a potential revised date at the end of March 2015.</p> <p>This delay is due fundamentally to the on-going inability of British Telecom (BT) and its contractors to deliver the network and associated telephony. This has impacted on other major areas of the programme, such as acceptance testing of the mobilising system, which has resulted in Capita Fortek having to reschedule their work-plan.</p>
ACTION	Information.
RECOMMENDATIONS	It is recommended that the report be noted.
RISK MANAGEMENT	<p>Options are being considered to ensure that effective call handling and mobilisation arrangements are maintained within the Service and that a resilient Control Room function is preserved leading up to the new 'cut over' date.</p> <p>A revised cut over date will be formalised as soon as possible. However, this is dependent on the delivery of the network and associated telephony to ensure all systems operate effectively.</p> <p>Consideration is being given to the impact on our Control Room staff with this delay. The settlement agreements previously discussed with staff (retaining their services until 31/01/15) are being reviewed as one option as well as resourcing the Control Room with an alternative staffing model. Further options being discussed include resources from elsewhere within the organisation to assist with both maintaining the call handling function and achieving the</p>

	<p>deliverables that are not impacted upon by the technical delay.</p> <p>A review is being undertaken for those staff who expressed their wish to transfer across to the TVFCS.</p> <p>Work continues to ensure those deliverables of the programme that are not directly affected by the lack of infrastructure are completed at the earliest opportunity.</p>
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	<p>It is estimated that delays to the project will cost the Authority circa £76K a month in staff salaries and on-costs.</p>
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	<p>The basis of the collaboration in establishing the Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) was set out in a Programme Partnering Agreement (PPA) between Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA) dated 14 September 2012 and a further agreement between OCC and RBFA on the one part and Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority (BMKFA) on the other part dated 22 March 2013. The TVFCS has been established by the fire and rescue authorities in order to fulfil the statutory responsibilities placed on them by sections 7(2)(c); 8(2)(c); and 9(3)(c) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.</p>
HEALTH AND SAFETY	<p>It was identified in the last update paper regarding this Programme that additional shifts provided by remaining Control Room staff may have a negative impact. It is pleasing to report that, to date, shifts continue to be covered and that sickness levels continue to remain very low.</p> <p>It should be noted however, that this delay is likely to have an impact on staff morale and as a result, their on-going health, safety and welfare will be monitored regularly.</p>
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	<p>An initial Person Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the initial Fire Control project plan.</p>
USE OF RESOURCES	<p>The core delivery team still consists of two officers; however this has been temporarily enhanced by a further resource who has been tasked with the development and delivery of programme awareness and training to all affected BFRS personnel.</p> <p>All operational staff will be undertaking a training programme through an e-learning platform. Flexible duty officers are taking part in joint officer training with Oxfordshire and Royal Berkshire officers related to the TVFCS.</p>

<p>PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS</p>	<p>Fire Authority Extraordinary Meeting – Fire Control Report - 31 October 2012.</p> <p>Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND MILTON KEYNES FIRE AUTHORITY held on WEDNESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2012.</p> <p>http://10.0.99.2/NR/ronlyres/0A2255BE-5D72-40AB-A89D-9D1383B1454E/0/FireAuthority19December2012.pdf</p> <p>Fire Authority Meeting – Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) Programme – 18 December 2013.</p> <p>Fire Authority Meeting – Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) Programme – 22 October 2014.</p>
<p>APPENDICES</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>TIME REQUIRED</p>	<p>20 minutes.</p>
<p>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</p>	<p>Greg Smith gsmith@bucksfire.gov.uk 01296 744400</p>

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