## **Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority**



MEETING	Fire Authority
DATE OF MEETING	18 February 2015
OFFICER	Greg Smith, Head of Service Development
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Adrian Busby
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	The Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) is a national (Government-led) programme designed to provide effective operational communications systems for all emergency services and responders.
	As a replacement solution for the current Airwave system, the ESMCP outcomes will provide effective emergency services interoperability and enable enhanced integration between the services.
	Current Airwave contracts for fire and rescue services are due to expire at the end of 2016. The government are seeking to extend these contracts until the completion of ESMCP. This will ensure continuity until new system cutover can be achieved. At this stage we anticipate that BMKFRS will cut over to the new system in 2018.
	The Airwave product has served us well but it cannot provide us with broadband data solutions that we are becoming more and more reliant on. Technological advancements and enhancements since the advent of Airwave will enable a more functionally-rounded solution that will provide effective voice and data communications.
ACTION	Information.
RECOMMENDATION	It is recommended that:
	<ol> <li>the ESMCP programme and progress to date be noted.</li> <li>the fact that the potential costs to the Authority have</li> </ol>
	yet to be identified be noted.
RISK MANAGEMENT	To supplement the identified risks and control measures within the programme and to ensure we consider risks to the Service, the project will be added to the Service Development Risk Register.
FINANCIAL	It is anticipated that there may be financial implications for the Authority. However, the amount and the future funding

IMPLICATIONS	mechanism is unknown at this stage as it is currently being developed by the central programme.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	None arising from the recommendations.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	It is expected that appropriate programme governance and controls will manage, control and reduce the risks detailed below:
	Timing - service and industry capacity and pace of transition
	Resources – HM Treasury funding, programme funding, service resources
	Decision making – inability to make timely decisions through devolved governance
	Coordination of multiple procurements
	Legal challenge leading to delay
	Transition from existing suppliers
	Availability of technology and devices
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of the equality and human rights legislation.
	It is expected that appropriate centralised programme governance will provide the impact assessments for this programme. We will need to assess local impact as we move to the implementation delivery and transition stage.
USE OF RESOURCES	We will establish an implementation team (estimated at this stage to be Spring-Summer 2015) to ensure programme delivery and effective transition. The final composition of this will be detailed once the scope and scale of the work is established.
	To simplify the implementation and roll-out, the national programme has been sub-divided into regional transition groups based on multi-agency-wide geographical areas. These areas are planned around Ambulance Trust areas. BMKFRS are included within the South Central transition group.
	The South Central Transition Group consists of the following agencies:
	Organisation
	Isle of Wight Primary Care Trust
	South Central Ambulance Buckinghamshire FRS
	Hampshire FRS
	Isle of Wight FRS
	Oxfordshire FRS

Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP)

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	Thames Valley Police	
	The physical resources for the programme will be covered under the centralised procurement strategy. We will seek to explore how we can work collaboratively with other FRS as well as other emergency services to minimise the impact on BMKFRS and deliver greater efficiencies by working effectively together.	
PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the- emergency-services-mobile-communications-programme	
APPENDICES	None.	
TIME REQUIRED	10 minutes.	
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