

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



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| MEETING | Executive Committee |
| DATE OF MEETING | 10 February 2021 |
| OFFICER | Anne-Marie Carter, Head of ICT, Transformation and PMO |
| LEAD MEMBER | Councillor David Hopkins |
| SUBJECT OF THE REPORT | Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) |
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | <p>This paper provides Members with an update regarding the latest developments in the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP). The last briefing was provided to Members in November 2020.</p> <p>Members will recall that in previous information papers, reference has been made to the Full Business Case (FBC) and the consideration of four options to enable the delivery of the Emergency Services Network (ESN).</p> <p>The most likely of the four options being considered by the Programme as the preferred way forward is Option 3a (an Airwave shutdown date of June 2025).</p> <p>The development of this option and the previously announced delay to the Prime product of at least 6 months, means that publication of a revised version of the FBC will not happen until early 2021.</p> <p>Little progress has been reported to us regarding the FBC since the last report to Members, therefore this paper will concentrate on progress of the practical delivery on the Programme.</p> |
| ACTION | Noting. |
| RECOMMENDATIONS | Members are recommended to note the ESMCP update. |
| RISK MANAGEMENT | <p>National Plan – Services have now had sight of the draft deployment planning tool developed by the Programme – this currently shows indicative transition dates for the South Central region starting in April 2022 for a period of 12 months. It is not clear whether the latest delay to the Programme delivery has been taken into account at this stage</p> <p><i>'The re-planning activity is targeted to conclude by the end of this year, resulting in the delivery of a realistic plan, with appropriate contingency, that will ensure delivery of an operationally safe solution. This plan will be the foundations for deployment and roll-out planning.'</i></p> |

We will start that planning activity in early 2021.'
(Monthly ESN briefing note – 12th November 2020)

DNSP – the question of whether BFRS will require its own Direct Network Service Provider link to access ESN in order to manage devices has yet to be resolved. The Regional Programme Manager for the East Midlands region has volunteered to act as a national point of contact for all the User Organisations (UOs) that have similar issues as BFRS and will liaise with the technical representatives from the Programme to seek a way forward.

Coverage – The SC region now have a dedicated Coverage and Assurance lead provided from OFRS. This lead is working closely with the SE region and TV Police to form a collaborative approach to the delivery of the Assure 1.1 product.

Assure 1.1 test devices have been provided to each UO – one fixed vehicle device (Automobile) and one handheld. The Thames Valley fire services have agreed to hand their Automobile devices to TVP to carry out road testing on our behalf.

The handheld devices will be used to carry out testing of critical operation locations and any identified areas of concern, within each county.

Training has been delivered regarding the operation of the handheld device and the portal that stores the data collected by all devices. Further training on the identification and reporting of Areas of Concern (AOCs) is planned for early in the New Year.

Resilience – The Programme are working with users to define requirements to define the resilience and black start options for ESN.

Two large pieces of coverage work have just been released to User Organisations requesting our assistance in assuring resilience. The outcomes of these tasks will feed into the revised Full Business Case to be released in 2021. These tasks are in addition to the aforementioned Assure 1.1 workload.

Products – the latest progress reported by the Programme regarding product delivery:

- *ESN Connect (Critical Bearer)* – the final phase of live testing with County Durham & Darlington Fire Service is progressing well with a completion date due in December 2020.
- *ESN Direct 2 (Public Safety and Push to Talk Messaging)* – it is expected that all Direct 2 operational validation will be completed in early 2021.
- *ESN Prime (Full suite of Public Safety Communication services)* – Prime Gate 3 was successfully achieved

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| | <p>on 06 November. An integrated delivery plan has been agreed between the Programme and suppliers – Prime now moves into the build and testing phases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Assure 1.1 (enables User Organisations to validate ESN coverage and performance)</i> – 1000 devices have now been deployed nationally within User Organisations. Assure 1.1 testing is now underway nationally with Areas of Concern (AoCs) being assessed and raised where appropriate. <p>South Central Regional Programme Manager – The Thames Valley services undertook a recruitment campaign for the Regional Programme Manager (RPM) role in October/November and offered the position to two candidates. Unfortunately, neither have decided to take up the offer, so a second campaign has been launched. The current RPM provided by consultancy firm Mott Macdonald will leave the post in January. The role will be shared by the Project Managers from the three services until March 2021.</p> |
| <p>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</p> | <p>The latest version of the Local Transition Resource (LTR) funding model has been released by the Programme.</p> <p>As the Programme now falls under the direction of the Crime, Policing and Fire Group within the Home Office, it is not clear at this stage what the financial reporting lines will be with regard to LTR funding. Infrastructure funding will continue to be directed through the Fire Directorate via a business case.</p> <p>Mobilisation and transition dates still remain unclear as there remains movement within the deployment planning workstream. Information has been received stating that fire services will remain under the 'Prepare' stage of the plan until a full deployment plan is produced with FRSs sequenced. Existing funds are planned to be used for the next financial year. This again will have to be confirmed with the move in governance</p> <p>The Hampshire and Isle of Wight fire services move to the South West region has now been approved at Programme level. A request has been made to the SW Regional Programme Manager for an invoice for the outstanding agreed settlement amount to enable South Central to begin accounting for the TVFCS services only.</p> |
| <p>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</p> | <p>Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service have already signed up to the principles of the ESN. 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</p> | <p>This Authority remains an active participant of the South Central Transition Delivery arrangements. The</p> |

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| THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE | <p>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 three South Central services and where appropriate, joint responses to work requests are submitted.</p> <p>The South Central region is also working with the South East region and Thames Valley Police on activities such as the Coverage and Assurance work in order to achieve a consistent approach and effective use of the limited resources available.</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, further information, and a confirmed plan become available, then an Integrated Impact Assessment will be completed.</p> |
| USE OF RESOURCES | <p>As stated in previous updates to Members, the organisation's Programme Manager is the Project Manager for ESMCP delivery.</p> <p>The Head of ICT, Transformation and PMO is the Senior User for this Authority.</p> |
| PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS | <p>Background</p> <p>ESMCP is the programme, which will 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>Provenance</p> <p>ESMCP Update, Executive Committee November 2020</p> |
| APPENDICES | <p>Appendix A: ESMCP Highlight Report – December 2020</p> |
| TIME REQUIRED | <p>10 minutes</p> |
| REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT | <p>Marie Crothers – Programme Manager mcrothers@bucksfire.gov.uk 01296 744430 / 07765 001907</p> |