



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

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**Meeting and date:** Executive Committee, 12 July 2023

**Report title:** Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme

**Lead Member:** Councillor Matthew Walsh

**Report sponsor:** Anne-Marie Carter, Head of Technology, Transformation and PMO

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**Action:** Noting

**Recommendations:** That the Emergency Service Mobile Communications Programme update be noted

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## **Executive summary:**

This paper examines the current Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) position and the expected impact on the South Central (SC) project team, with regard to workloads. It relies on the information provided by the national Programme being open, accurate and provided in a timely manner.

The document outlines the position adopted by the SC region regarding the future engagement with both the Programme and the team managed by the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC).

With the current delays within the Programme and bearing in mind that their deployment team have now been stood down whilst the re-procurement of Lot 2 takes place, the SC board had requested a review of how the region look to engage with the Programme over the next couple of years. This was to ensure that the effort put into ESMCP is effective, beneficial, and balanced with other more pressing priorities.

The NFCC and Programme teams have asked each Service to maintain a strategic owner for ESMCP and, in addition, that the ESMCP reference is assigned to a suitable individual who will act as a single point of contact (SPoC).

The Thames Valley region already has an established SRO at strategic level; therefore, this governance can remain unchanged and there will be a single representative for the Thames Valley team at the NFCC ESMCP strategic meetings.

The SPoC position refers to a more tactical level of contact which is currently carried out by four Project Managers across the Thames Valley region. The future engagement will comprise the provision of a single Project Manager to represent all the Thames Valley fire services. The SPoC will cater for the small amount of local engagement from the NFCC/Programme and represent Thames Valley team across all the programme workstreams/meetings as required, and then engaging with their local Service contacts as necessary.

The current Thames Valley Project Manager will adopt this role ensuring that a level of regional contact will be maintained with the Programme and mitigates the risk of losing staff knowledge and experience when scaling back resources.

The Thames Valley Strategic lead and SPoC will ensure relevant communications and developments in ESMCP are managed accordingly, as well as maintaining a significantly reduced level of internal governance. Regular meetings between the project managers will continue, ensuring that information is shared and the SC Programme Board meetings will continue to be held in line with the dates of the Fire Customer Group meetings.

The position adopted from 01 April 2023 will provide assurance that Thames Valley Services remain engaged with the Programme and informed of progress whilst allowing local Services to utilise their resources in a more efficient way.

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### **Financial implications:**

The current Local Transition Resource (LTR) funding ceased as of 01 April 2023.

In order to mitigate the impact of this, the TV Project Manager role has been reduced from a four-day week working on South Central Fire ESMCP to one day per week. This is a local flexible agreement which means the time spent on ESMCP will vary but not exceed one day per week over the next twelve months to enable budgets to be made available to support the role.

The TV PM will also be seconded into the Home Office to support Fire Funding Policy with ESMCP for the remaining contracted three days per week. The Home Office will be funding the secondment. The TV PM employment contract will continue to sit with Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service during this period.

Each of the Thames Valley services will contribute an equal amount to the TV PM post for work conducted for Thames Valley on ESMCP.

### **Risk management:**

The South Central Programme team maintains a risk register on behalf of the South Central Programme Board. The Risk Register v27 was reviewed by the three TV FRS project managers in February 2023.

There have been few changes to the current risks due to the limited movement of the Programme. However, there was one closure and one new addition to the register:

**ESMCP043** – *Closed* - Funding shortfall in financial year 2022/23 onwards. Closed due to information released regarding the funding position as current financial year about to close

**ESMCP045** – *Opened – Green* - Funding shortfall for remainder of delivery of Programme activities - Funding for LTR ceases 31 March 2023. No future model released leading to potential limitations in local resource availability

### **Legal implications:**

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.

### **Privacy and security implications:**

As the Programme remains in the 'Prepare' phase, there have been no privacy issues or security implications identified. This will remain under review, particularly when the Programme stands up again and moves to the 'Mobilisation' phase.

### **Duty to collaborate:**

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 three South Central services and where appropriate, joint responses to work requests are submitted.

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.

### **Health and safety implications:**

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.

### **Environmental implications:**

There are no environmental implications perceived at this time. There is constant review of this and any issues that may arise in the future will be referred.

### **Equality, diversity, and inclusion implications:**

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 impact assessment will be completed.

### **Consultation and communication:**

The need to communicate and consult with all identified stakeholders is reviewed regularly. Once the Programme has entered its mobilisation and transition phases then regular communications will be established.

### **Background papers:**

[ESMCP Update, Executive Committee 13 November 2021](#)

[ESMCP Update, Executive Committee 13 July 2022](#)

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Protective Marking</b>
A	South Central Region Position Update July 2023	None
B	ESMCP Chronology of events Oct 2022	None