

Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme

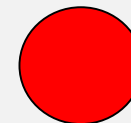
Appendix A

Lead Member:
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Project Objectives: The Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme will provide a new communication system for the 3 emergency services and other public safety users. This system will be called the Emergency Services Network (ESN). It will replace the current Airwave radio network. BFRS forms part of the South Central Region to deliver this work and this highlight report will focus on the regional and local delivery into this programme but will also provide high level national updates

Overall RAG



Finance



Plan



Risks & Issues



Scope



Resources



Summary – Period dated: April 2020 – June 2020

Update

- **South Central Governance** – Formal letter has been submitted to the Central Programme requesting approval for the Hants & IOW services to transfer to the South West region. The NFCC leads have indicated that they are comfortable with this move, however there is a process to go through which is likely to take some weeks. The finances for the move have been agreed between both regions but requires sign-off at Programme level.
- **Full Business Case** – still yet to be released – we have received notification that the transition of the FBC through the governance process has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and re-allocation of resources centrally. A document outlining the strategic case for ESN has been released to Programme Team members and its content is currently being reviewed. It cannot be released at this stage as much of it is deemed commercially sensitive.
- **National Plan** – The latest iteration was released in April 2020. – this version shows the planned date at which all Capita system Control Rooms which will be ESN ready is set at Q2 2023 and that all Fire Services will have completed transition by Q4 2024. However the current date for the switch off of the Airwave system officially remains at December 2022.

The latest plan shows the earliest possible date for Airwave switch off as being Q4 2024 however this has not officially confirmed at this stage. The continued preference for Thames Valley officers is that all TV Services have completed transition 12 months prior to the confirmed Airwave cut-off date.

DNISP – the question of whether BFRS will require its own DNISP link to access ESN in order to manage devices has yet to be resolved.

There has been little movement regarding this matter due to the Covid-19 pandemic however this will be addressed within the next period.

Finance – We have recently received notification from the Home Office Fire and Resilience Directorate confirming the roles and expenditure in relation to grant funding they will accept for the year 2020/21. Some minor adjustments were proposed, taking into account the move of the Hants and IOW services to the South West Region. These changes have been approved at Programme level as the region costs will remain within the funding envelope.

Priorities for Next Period: April – June 2020

- *Strategic case information to be reviewed and Service comments to be returned to the Programme*
- *Review of Critical Operational Locations to be undertaken by each User Organisation*
- *Discussion to take place regarding the next steps to be taken to resolve the long-outstanding DNSP query raised with the Programme Director.*
- *Work to continue to prepare for the release of two devices per FRS in order to carry out local coverage testing and assurance activities (Assure 1.1) – review of the recently released guidance documents and discussions within the SC region to decide how the assure work can be approached collaboratively.*
- *Assure 1.1 Usage conditions sign off forms to be completed*

Key Milestones

Forecast/ Actual

FBC review complete	Delayed
ESN Assure 1.1 – Gate 5 review	Complete
ESN Assure 2.0 (TBC)	Q4 20
England Urban Coverage Complete (South Central)	Q4 20 (TBC)
ESN Prime	Q4 20
Airwave National Shutdown	Dec 22 (contingency Dec 23)
Local: Continue dialogue with central team to resolve DNSP issue	Ongoing

Key Decisions Required

None at this stage – for information only

Risk/ Issue	RAG	Description	Mitigating Action
ESMC P001	22	Delay in the implementation of ESMCP. Delay in the procurement process, legal challenge, deferred business case. Financial cost to Home Office and potential higher contract costs	Budget/costing issues fed into FCG and Programme
ESMC P016	22	If post transition costs are not provided UOs will not be able to accurately budget for the new service leading to financial pressures and reputational damage.	Raised to SC Programme Board and Fire Customer Group. Reps from SC region continually raise this as an issue with the Programme
ESMC P030	22	Extending Transition timescales will now clash with contract end dates and potential system refresh of mobilising systems	Being highlighted as an issue during the current Deployment Planning discussions

There are currently 32 risks listed on the SC Risk Register – the top 3 are displayed here – the full register is available on request