

## **Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority**

**15 June 2011**

### **Response to CLG Fire Control Consultation and Fire Control Replacement Project**

#### **Report by the Chief Officer**

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## **1 Summary**

- 1.1 After the closure of the FiReControl project at the end of last year, the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) began the process of reviewing the project and consulting with Fire and Rescue Services (FRS), and other interested parties, for their views on priorities for the future provision of Control services in England. The consultation period was for 12 weeks from 13<sup>th</sup> January this year. Our response to the consultation is attached as appendix 1.
- 1.2 CLG have given an undertaking to publish a summary of the responses received within three months of the end of the consultation period. We will ensure Members are informed once CLG's response is received.

## **2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Authority acknowledge the consultation response.

## **3 Introduction and background**

- 3.1 As part of the consultation CLG published the document "The future of fire and rescue control services in England". Within the document CLG highlighted scenarios for future consideration and made it clear that they supported collaboration and efficiencies. The continued work on the Control Options Appraisal Project (COAP) within HFRS enabled us to identify a preferred option and we were able to work together with our partners, at that time, Dorset and Wiltshire FRS, to submit an independent but co-ordinated response to CLG.
- 3.2 Recently Devon and Somerset FRS have indicated that they wish to be part of this partnership. The outline of the benefits of the partnership are contained in the response answer to Question 6.
- 3.3 Our response to CLG and our proposal to work with Dorset, Wiltshire and Devon and Somerset FRS reflects CLG's preferred option for collaboration, partnership and resilience.

- 3.4 The partnership and procurement process will enable a joint procurement that will allow HFRS to retain a Control room within Hampshire and to meet our own deadline of replacing our existing system by the end of 2013, the date our existing system has been guaranteed maintenance from the suppliers.

#### **4 Conclusion**

- 4.1 The Service can ensure continuity of service and secure its ability to discharge its statutory duties by replacing the current Command and Control system as part of the partnership agreement with Dorset, Wiltshire and Devon and Somerset FRSs. The shared procurement will support the preferred option for future provision of control services for HFRS, providing enhanced resilience and functionality.
- 4.2 A partnership model for delivery of controls services between Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire and Devon and Somerset will provide enhanced resilience for all four services with opportunities for efficiency savings.
- 4.3 Our response to the CLG consultation document "The future of fire and rescue control services in England" has highlighted the potential for central Government support for the proposals in this report.

#### **5 Background papers**

- 5.1 The following documents disclose the facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of the report:

Appendix 1:  
FiReControl Consultation – HFRS response – April 2011

Note: The list excludes: (1) published works; and (2) documents that disclose exempt or confidential information defined in the Act.