

# Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

3 December 2014

Item: 9

## Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP)

### Report by the Chief Officer

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## 1 Summary

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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 cut-over can be achieved. At this stage we anticipate that HFRS will cut over to the new system in 2018.
- 1.4 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.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the ESMCP programme and progress to date.
- 2.2 To note the potential for future costs to the Authority.
- 2.3 To note the anticipated HFRS structure and governance arrangements relating to implementation.

## 3 Introduction and background

- 3.1 ESMCP is sponsored by the UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments, each of which is accountable to its own Parliament. Within the UK Government, ESMCP has cross-departmental sponsorship from the Home Office (HO), the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Department of Health (DoH) and, given the level of current and future spend, and the strategic issues around civil contingencies and interoperability, Cabinet Office also have a close interest. In addition, critical stakeholders include the professional leaders of the 3 emergency services (e.g. Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA), Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE).

3.2 The programme covers the following agencies in two levels:

<b>Delivery Scope – Level One</b> (Included in the business case)	<b>Transition Enabled Scope – Level Two</b> (Service enabling – timing and cost fall to each organisation)
44 Police Authorities/Services	Highways Agency
50 Fire & Rescue Authorities/Services	HMRC
14 Ambulance Trusts	Border Agency
National Crime Agency	Local Authorities
3 non-Home Office Police Services (BTP, MoDP, CNC)	Coastguard, Mountain Rescue
National Police Air Service	Other minor Airwave users

3.3 The programme will provide multi-agency communications to and from the following functions:

- Control rooms: circa 230
- Vehicles: circa 45,000
- Aircraft: circa 115
- User Devices: circa 300,000 operational users

3.4 The timescales and key milestones for the project are:

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>
Outline Business Case approval	April 2014 ✓
OJEU and PQQ issued	April 2014 ✓
ITT (Invitation To Tender) issued	August 2014 ✓
Tender return	October 2014 ✓
Tender and Technology Evaluation	November/December 2014
Full Business Case approval	Spring 2015
Contract award	Summer 2015
Mobilisation	Spring 2015 to Late 2016
Service Commencement	Late 2016
Full implementation	2020

### 3.5 Programme Implementation/Transition Structure

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. HFRS are included within the South Central transition group.

The South Central Transition Group consists of the following agencies:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Sector</b>
Isle of Wight Primary Care Trust	Ambulance
South Central Ambulance	Ambulance
Buckinghamshire FRS	Fire
Hampshire FRS	Fire
Isle of Wight FRS	Fire
Oxfordshire FRS	Fire
Royal Berkshire FRS	Fire
Hampshire Constabulary	Police
Thames Valley Police	Police

It is, however, noteworthy that as a result of our Networked Fire Control Services Partnership (NFCSP) we are also very closely aligned with partners. As a result we are also represented within the South West Transition Group. We will carefully synchronise our cut-over between the two transition groups to achieve seamless business continuity and maximise efficiency.

### 3.6 Proposed HFRS Delivery Structure – Project Board Members

To deliver the transition it is proposed that a project delivery board is established within HFRS with the following membership:

- Area Manager, Service Delivery - Response – Senior Responsible Owner
- Group Manager Control – Project Manager
- Head of ICT
- Communications Technician/s
- Fleet Maintenance Centre representative

### 3.7 Proposed HFRS Delivery Structure – Project Implementation Team

- Group Manager (Control) – Project Manager
- Project Officer
- Communications technician/s
- Project administration

### **3.8 Governance Arrangements**

The Chief Officer will report periodically to the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee as the programme progresses.

The Project Board will also report progress to our own HFRS Safer Stronger Board at regular intervals to ensure effective delivery of the project.

Additionally the SRO will report progress to the South Central Transition Group.

We will also explore how we can work collaboratively with other FRS as well as other emergency services to minimise the impact on HFRS and deliver greater efficiencies by working effectively together.

## **4 Supporting our corporate aims and objectives**

- 4.1 The outcomes and delivery of this programme will enhance our capability, improve resilience and security as well as essential multi-agency interoperability. This will assist in making us stronger and Hampshire Safer.

## **5 Risk analysis**

- 5.1 The published central (core) programme risks have been identified as:

- 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

- 5.2 It is expected that appropriate programme governance and controls will manage, control and reduce these risks accordingly.

- 5.3 To supplement this and to ensure we consider risks to HFRS we will also establish our own project risk log.

## **6 People Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of the equality and human rights legislation.

- 6.2 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.

## **7 Environmental and Sustainability impact assessment**

7.1 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.

## **8 Resource implications**

### **8.1 Human Resources**

As detailed previously, at an appropriate juncture (estimated at this stage to be Spring-Summer 2015) we will need to establish an implementation team 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.

### **8.2 Physical Resources**

The physical resources for this 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 HFRS and deliver greater efficiencies by working effectively together.

### **8.3 Financial Implications**

It is anticipated that there be significant financial implications for HFRS and that there will be cost to the Authority. However, the quantum and the future funding mechanism is unknown at this stage as it is currently being developed by the central programme.

It is anticipated that the funding for this project will come from a combination of:

- Capital – The initial project expenditure capital cost will be added to the Capital Programme once the quantum becomes clear.
- The project team and implementation costs will be met by re-aligning current budgets
- Revenue - The on-going revenue costs will be met by re-profiling the existing budget allocated for Airwave.

## **9 Consultation**

9.1 It is expected that appropriate centralised programme governance will provide the appropriate consultation requirements for this programme. We will communicate and engage with our own staff and partners locally as required to support the successful completion of the project.

9.2 No significant consultation requirements are anticipated for HFRS.

## **10 Conclusion**

10.1 The ESMCP will be a key project for HFRS over the next few years.

10.2 We have significant experience within the organisation to assist in delivering a successful outcome and are well-placed to deliver.

## **11 Background papers**

11.1 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:

ESMCP programme documentation

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