Finance and General Purposes Committee Extraordinary Meeting
23 March 2016

Appendix 6

Summary Business case	Fireground Radio Replacement
Date of SMT meeting	February 2016

Description and objectives
This project is seeking to: Improve quality of communication at incidents and replace HFRS radios to benefit from new advances in digital technology. The business objectives are to: • Improve organisational learning post incident • Replacement of the legacy radio system

Timescales
6-12 months

Why does this need to be done now?
There are some issues with HFRS existing radios. A gradual rise in reported faults and therefore a lack of suitable repair options resulting in long periods of radios being unavailable to crews.

Investment requested

To replace Fireground Radios with Digital Fireground Radios

	£000
Staff resources	16
Sub-Contractors/External Consultants	8
ICT Hardware	550
Total	**574**

Are there ongoing costs?
No new ongoing costs.

What are the benefits?
There are a number of significant benefits from innovative digital radios in

particular clearer voice communications over a greater coverage area. They also benefit from the ability to make use of a range of additional features such as data or text transfer, point to point, and in particular secure encrypted transmission.

By investing in a fully serviced package, warranty conditions can be extended and enhanced to cover 5 years including damage during normal use (including fire). This will ensure radios are always available or quickly repaired and returned to service (24 hours to 3 days dependant on package)

In addition to the increased coverage and audio quality performance of digital radios there are a number of benefits which can be realised. These include:

1. Enhanced radio capacity
2. Diverse applications
3. Text messaging
4. Integrated GPS
5. Better audio quality over greater coverage
6. Double call capacity
7. Longer Battery runtime
8. Smart accessories
9. More robust

Financial return on the investment
There may be a reduction in communications engineering resource for maintenance of fireground radios

Key risks
There is a remote chance that the ESMCP may develop far quicker than anticipated for a dual purpose product which allows ESN and Fireground communications. As there is as yet no concept even for this, it is extremely unlikely before 3 years and only marginally possible at 5 years when the first replacement of the new radios would be considered.