

08 December 2010

Firelink and FireControl Projects - Update

Report by the Chief Officer

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1 Summary

- 1.1 The Firelink (national radio scheme) and the FireControl Regional Control Centre (RCC) projects are national projects under the control of the department for Communities and Local Government (CLG).
- 1.2 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service's dedicated project team continue to manage the associated work with each project. The Service is also represented within the South East regional project team and associated working groups.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Authority acknowledge this project update.

3 Introduction and Background

3.1 Firelink Project

- 3.1.1 The key initial aspects of this project are now complete. This project has seen the successful installation of new radios to our fire engines to provide improved quality, national compatibility and resilience in the event of deployments to incidents outside of Hampshire. In addition, our fire engines are now fitted with mobile data terminals (MDTs), to provide important information regarding risks direct to our crews whilst attending incidents. Following the recent installation of a WIFI system to our fire stations, the information available to crews via the MDT, will be automatically updated via the WIFI system.

3.2 FireControl Project

- 3.2.1 Whilst the future of the project continues to be the subject of debate at a local, regional and national level, the date for the South East RCC to 'go live' remains as March 2012. The first of the nine regional Services to switch to the RCC are Hampshire and West Sussex.
- 3.2.2 Whilst project work progresses to the current timelines, Services within the region continue to consider the maintenance of their existing Command and Control

systems in the event of further project adjustments. Hampshire's resilience plans for our current system extend to 2014.

- 3.2.3 In order to assess possible future contingencies a separate project within the Service has now been established; the Control Options Appraisal Project (COAP). This project is being managed by Fire Control Group Manager Jane Reynolds - Smith. The project team will complete research and develop future possible options culminating in a report in June 2011.

3.3 **Out of Scope (Strategic Gap)**

This work is managed by the Service's project team and involves consideration of all roles and responsibilities currently carried out by our Control staff, other than the receipt of emergency calls and the mobilising of fire engines and officers. These additional responsibilities will not be transferred to the RCC and will have to be re-allocated within the Service.

3.4 **Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC)**

- 3.4.1 Councillor Roger Price represents the Fire Authority on the LACC. Councillor Price commenced his one year role as Chair of the LACC in November.
- 3.4.2 A verbal update regarding the latest LACC meeting will be provided to Members at the Authority meeting.

4 **People Impact Assessment**

- 4.1 There are no issues arising from this report and it is considered compatible with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Human Rights Act 1998, and the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 and the People Impact Assessment for this project.

Background Information

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:

None

NB The list excludes: (1) Published works and (2) Documents that disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.