

TO: Policy and Resources Committee

FROM: Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Matthew Warren

PRESENTING OFFICER(S): Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Matthew Warren

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UPDATE REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW MOBILISATION AND INTEGRATED CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Policy and Resources Committee with an update on the progress of the project to implement the new mobilisation and Integrated Control and Communication System (ICCS).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Policy and Resources Committee is asked to note the update as at November 2019.

3. Risk Assessment

- 3.1 **Economic** – the procurement and refresh of the mobilisation and ICCS systems are a significant investment for both Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service.
- 3.2 **Legal** - Section 7 of the Fire Services Act states that a fire and rescue authority must, in particular, make arrangements for dealing with calls for help and for summoning personnel. The procurement of a new Emergency Services Network (ESN) compliant ICCS and mobilising system will ensure CFRS can continue to comply with this requirement on behalf of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk.
- 3.3 **Technological** – to ensure compatibility with new security requirements and codes of connections to the ESN network, there is a requirement for the current technologies to be refreshed. Without this the Authority would not reach accreditation to operate on the new ESN.

4. Background

- 4.1 CFRS operate the Combined Fire Control on behalf of both Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. Within the Combined Fire Control, staff operate a mobilising

system and an ICCS. These systems have been in service for a number of years and neither is compatible with the ESN which all emergency services and other public safety users are due to be migrating to in the near future. Therefore the Service must ensure that both systems are compatible and ready to migrate to the new ESN.

- 4.2 Due to the existing contractual arrangements coming up for renewal and the requirement for the control room infrastructure to be ESN compliant, CFRS and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service initiated a project to tender for an ESN compliant mobilising solution with a specification that fully meets both organisations current and future requirements.
- 4.3 The implementation of an ESN compliant ICCS and mobilising system will ensure we continue to have the most up to date technology. This also allows us to continue with an enhanced radio management system and increased use of data to assist with mobilising which will, in turn, improve Combined Fire Control functionality, provide a resilient solution and ensure compatibility and readiness for transition to ESN.
- 4.4 The Project Brief was approved at Programme Board in March 2018 and work has been ongoing since with our partner to create the system specifications and take the procurement through a full OJEU procurement process due to the value of the products.
- 4.5 The station end equipment that is used to alert the stations is currently not compatible with emerging technologies and increased security requirements. Therefore this also requires replacing before a new mobilising system is introduced and accredited to the required GD92 standards.
- 4.6 Whilst we are conducting a major refresh of our mobilisation infrastructure we have taken the time to review the current location of our secondary control room currently based in St Ives. The room used is not ideal as it has restricted height ceilings and reduced access. The risk factors that could affect primary control could also impact the secondary control due to their close physical proximity. A review of the station at Dogsthorpe in Peterborough identified that it could provide the necessary improved space, facilities and access and is sufficiently distanced from the primary control so as to not be impacted by the same risk factors (see also paragraph 4.11 below).
- 4.7 The tender process for the mobilisation system and ICCS has been completed in conjunction with our partner, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service. Due to the level of investment and significance of the system to both organisations, the process has been lengthy and detailed. The contract has been awarded to Systemes Et Telecommunications SA (Systel).
- 4.8 Systel is an international integrator of command and control, communications and risk management systems for fire and rescue, police and medical services. With a headquarters in La Rochelle, France and a subsidiary in the UK, Systel has developed emergency mobilising and communications

systems for 48 fire and rescue services in France as well as two counties in Switzerland, five counties in England, Scotland and Ireland.

- 4.9 Work is currently underway to launch the project with Systel; we are working with their project manager to confirm the project schedule and in January 2020 will be commencing a number of workshops designed to share with users the system capabilities as well as gather information to refine the details of the implementation. The current estimate is to deliver the system in early 2021.
- 4.10 Work has also now commenced on procurement activities for the station end equipment. The plan is scheduled to commence roll out of this new equipment in early 2020 with completion in the summer of the same year.
- 4.11 Surveys and works are currently underway with various third parties to ensure that Dogsthorpe Fire Station is ready for summer 2020 for initial installation of the new mobilisation and ICCS system. This approach will also allow the Service to conduct training and testing away from the main operational control rooms until cutover to the new system and new secondary control room in spring 2021.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents	Location	Contact Officer
Programme Board Status Report Project Brief Mobilisation and ICCS System	Fire Service HQ Hinchingsbrooke Cottage Huntingdon	Matthew Warren 01480 444619 matthew.warren@cambsfire.gov.uk