



TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 08

MEETING: 21 JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT: COMMAND AND CONTROL - UPDATE

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, FINANCE OFFICER AND CLERK TO THE
AUTHORITY**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Authority on the progress made with the replacement command and control system and associated building works.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The provision of the command and control function sits at the heart of the Authority's service and, following the failure of the national FiReControl project, it is crucial that the replacement of the existing facility is undertaken in an effective and efficient manner.

2.2 As Members will recall, a previous Authority report tasked the Chief Fire Officer with making the necessary arrangements to ensure that a replacement command and control system for the Authority could be procured and implemented before 2014 (minute no 34 of 2011 refers).

3 PROCUREMENT OF A COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM

3.1 Members will recall that approval was given at the Authority meeting on 19 September 2011 to the procurement of a replacement Mobilising and Resource Management System.

3.2 The Authority also noted at this meeting that we would be working collaboratively with Northumberland Fire and Rescue Authority with regard to this procurement.

3.3 It was identified that the value of this contract would exceed the EU Public Procurement threshold and was therefore subject to EU Directives. The Directives require a procurement project to be advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).

3.4 The completed outcome of the procurement process resulted in Telent achieving the highest score based on the evaluation criteria and thus identified as the most economically advantageous tender. In accordance with the Authority Standing Orders, Telent were duly awarded the contract on 22nd November 2012.



- 3.5 The Contractor is now fully engaged with the integrated project teams to ensure delivery, implementation, testing and training for the new command and control system can be achieved in preparation for 'go-live' in the summer of 2013.

4 FIRE CONTROL LOCATION – PROCUREMENT

- 4.1 As Members will be aware, the Chief Fire Officer caused a comprehensive business case to be produced, researching various options and providing a full risk analysis for the location of the control room facility. Following a comprehensive risk and cost appraisal, the Chief Fire Officer concluded the most optimum position for the command and control function would be Service Headquarters and made the necessary arrangements to tender for the work.
- 4.2 In order to ensure that a fully functioning command and control system can be implemented before 2014, the Chief Fire Officer considered it essential to commence the necessary procurement to ensure building works could be completed by December 2012 thereby providing a suitable premise in which to install and test the new command and control system.
- 4.3 The Chief Fire Officer is pleased to report that much progress has been made in terms of providing suitable and sufficient premises to house the command and control function within Service Headquarters. Building alterations have now been completed including enhancing facilities to provide a greater degree of resilience than previously experienced.
- 4.4 Invitation is extended to Members to view the facilities at the conclusion of the meeting today.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All costs, as previously reported and agreed, can be met from the funding streams, including grant funding and earmarked reserves, identified for the command and control project

6 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A risk assessment has been undertaken to ensure that the risk to the Authority has been minimised as far as practicable. The assessment has considered an appropriate balance between risk and control; the realisation of efficiencies; the most appropriate use of limited resources; and a comprehensive evaluation of the benefits. The risk to the authority has been assessed as high utilising the standard risk matrix based on control measures being in place. The complete risk assessment is available on request from the Chief Fire Officer.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 All health and safety implications have been included in the risk assessment for both construction and implementation works.



8 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Authority is requested to:-

- (i) Note the contents of this report;
 - (ii) Receive further reports as appropriate.
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The undermentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- Authority Report 19 September 2011 Fire Control – The Future
- Authority Report 26 March 2012 Command and Control – The Future

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and Rescue Authority**
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