

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 7

MEETING: 10 DECEMBER 2018

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY SERVICES MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME (ESMCP) and MOBILISING AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TECHNICAL REFRESH - UPDATE

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE (CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current progress of the national Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme (ESMCP).
- 1.2 Currently, the Mobilising and Resource Management System is undergoing a Technical Refresh with progress also reflected within this report.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members have received previous reports explaining how the ESMCP (the Programme) will replace the existing communication service delivered by Airwave Services Limited (ASL) with a new national mobile communication service called the Emergency Services Network (ESN). The ESN will take advantage of the latest mobile technologies to provide national critical voice and broadband data services.

3 ESMCP UPDATE

- 3.1 ESMCP is a cross-government programme hosted by the Home Office which has recently undergone a project reset in order to undertake;
 - a comprehensive re-planning exercise with suppliers and users
 - revision to financial implications in the original Full Business Case (FBC) and
 - Programme organisational restructure
- 3.2 In July the Permanent Under Secretary, Sir Philip Rutnam approved the progression of an new incremental approach to delivery requesting development of a Full Business Case (FBC) to be delivered early 2019.
- 3.3 The TWFRS adoption roadmap captures activities to enable transition to ESN and aligns to the availability of the 'Prime' Incremental Approach product option which is currently scheduled to deliver the full range of ESN technology and connectivity from August 2020.

- 3.4 Subject to the approval of the FBC by Government Departments and that appropriate funding is made available for TWFRS to transition to ESN, further preparatory and update work will be undertaken to our Mobilising and Resource Management system.

4 TECHNICAL REFRESH UPDATE

- 4.1 The Mobilising and Resource Management System contract was awarded to telent in 2012 as part of an initial 10-year contract with the option to extend this for a further 5 years. Contract prices are valid for 10 years of services subject to a technical refresh being carried out by both Authority Parties (TWFRS and Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service) in the fifth contract year i.e. 2018.
- 4.2 Technical refresh includes replacement of a number of hardware components within the current Mobilising and Resource Management System e.g. PCs and monitors in the Control Room, hardware in the server room and Mobile Data Terminals & Tom Toms on fire appliances.
- 4.3 Financial provision was made within the MTFS in respect of this at commencement of contract.
- 4.4 Approval through the delegation scheme has resulted in purchase order submission with an implementation plan now being developed with completion anticipated late Spring 2019.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 A comprehensive risk log for TWFRS has been captured which subsequently feeds into a Regional FRS risk log. Risks, issues and updates are provided to and received from the ESMCP via the Fire Customer Group (FCG) and Regional Board.
- 5.2 Risks are regularly monitored and actioned as appropriate throughout the duration of the project.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Assessment of ESN upgrade activities and enabling works has been undertaken resulting in Home Office Section 31 Grant Funding provided as follows:-
- Initial Grant of £1.734m in March 2017
 - Additional Grant of £0.656m in March 2018
 - Local Transition Resource of £0.052m for 2016/17
 - Local Transition Resource of £0.176m for 2017/18
 - Local Transition Resource of £0.086m for 2018/19
- 6.2 Increased revenue expenditure due to ESN upgrade activities continues to be a concern as does the provision of future Local Transition Resource (LTR) funding. These concerns continues to be highlighted through the FCG to the Programme for recognition in the FBC.
- 6.3 In respect of the Technical Refresh, budget provision of £0.350m was made. Through detailed analysis and discussions with suppliers the actual costs of the technical refresh are approximately £0.253m.

7 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

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

8 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Members are requested to:

9.1.1 Note the content of this report.

9.1.2 Receive further reports as necessary.
