

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Service Delivery Policy and Challenge Group
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Item No. 9

REPORT AUTHOR: HEAD OF SERVICE SUPPORT
SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT MOBILISING PROJECT 2018

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Background Papers: Paper to FRA Mobilising System Options Appraisal 14 December 2017
Paper to FRA Mobilising System Options Short List 8 February 2018
Paper to FRA Future Mobilising System Recommendation 26 April 2018

Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL		FINANCIAL	
HUMAN RESOURCES		EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL		POLICY	
CORPORATE RISK	Known	OTHER (please specify)	
	New	CORE BRIEF	

Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.

PURPOSE

To present to Members of the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) an update on the Replacement Mobilising Project 2018 (RMP 2018), including some background information, focusing on the option that had been selected as the way forward and the scope of the work being undertaken in partnership with Cambridgeshire (CFRS) and Suffolk (SFRS) Fire and Rescue Services.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members consider the update provided.

1. Background

- 1.1. Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) emergency call handling and mobilising system is currently provided through a partnership arrangement with Essex Fire and Rescue Service (EFRS). The system was procured in 2012 through a tender process supported by Government grant funding. The contract term for system components expires at the end of 2019 (Frequentis) and early 2020 (Remsdaq) respectively.
- 1.2. Towards the end of 2017 EFRS notified BFRS that in consideration of the end of the contract and upgrade costs they intended to procure a new Emergency Service Network (ESN) compliant system and would not be seeking extension to the current contract. In consequence of these circumstances BFRS also needs to plan for its future provision.
- 1.3. At the FRA meeting on 14 December 2017 the FRA endorsed a proposal to appoint consultants to assist the FRA to make the best decision for our future mobilising provision.
- 1.4. The first phase was completed on track and Mason Advisory provided a report setting out their recommendations based upon their initial review of a range of identified options. At the FRA meeting on 8 February 2018 the FRA endorsed a detailed appraisal of the following three options:
 1. Procurement of a new system in collaboration with EFRS
 2. Collaboration with East Coast and Hertfordshire Control Consortium
 3. Procurement of a new system in collaboration with Cambridgeshire FRS (CFRS) and Suffolk FRS (SFRS)
- 1.5. At the FRA meeting on 26 April 2018 a detailed appraisal of the three options was presented. This paper also highlighted provisional costs, other areas of technological hardware/software that may need to be considered to ensure consistency with partners, and the need to ensure that continuity of service through extending the use of the current system until a new system was implemented.
- 1.6. At that meeting it was recommended that the FRA procure a new mobilising system in collaboration with CFRS and SFRS as recommended by the consultant Mason Advisory, this recommendation was endorsed by the FRA.

1.7. Following the approval by the FRA to enter into a joint collaboration with CFRS and SFRS for the procurement of a new emergency call handling and mobilising system the following has been put in place:

- A joint Executive Project board has been established between, BFRS, CFRS and SFRS.
- A number of project teams have been established to progress the detail on various work streams including:
 - Technical specification;
 - Procurement Strategy;
 - Supplier engagement days;
 - Common ways of working between Services;
 - Resource requirements, both physical and financial;
 - Project interdependencies, such as the Emergency Services mobile Communications Project; and
 - ICT requirements, including mobile Data Terminals for Risk Information and Mobilising.

1.8. Through this collaboration the need for either Service to retain a secondary control room is removed as this function is taken up by the opposite Service. Effectively BFRS becomes the fall back for CFRS/SFRS and vice versa, which both improves resilience and allows opportunities for cost savings through economies of scale.

This arrangement also provides further opportunity to align ways of working within the region, supporting the direction set by Principal Officers at a regional level.

**STRATEGIC OPERATIONAL COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER BALL
HEAD OF SERVICE SUPPORT**