

## **9. Fire Control Project Update**

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To inform Members of progress in the procurement of a new Command and Control system.
  2. To update Members on progress in the development of collaborative arrangements with Shropshire FRS, particularly the submission of a joint request for funding to DCLG officials.
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### **Recommendations**

***The Chief Fire Officer recommends that the Policy and Resources Committee notes:***

- i. the completion of the tender process and contract award to Computacentre, in partnership with Telent; and***
- ii. the progress of discussions on the collaborative arrangements with Shropshire, including the submission of a joint case for funding to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).***

### **Introduction and Background**

3. Members will recall that, following the termination of the national FireControl project, Authority approval was given to progress with the procurement of a turnkey Command and Control system solution as a matter of urgency. Early progress on this was sought as the Service's current system was becoming increasingly obsolescent.
4. Approval was also given to progress collaborative arrangements with Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service to include:

*The formation of a shared resilient control room infrastructure with common operating, technological and procedural standards/practices operated from two remote locations.*

### **Contract Award**

5. The Command and Control system tender process was progressed through the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions framework. A rigorous evaluation process was used to test tenders against the Service's detailed specification and to ensure any proposed solution proved to be fit for purpose.

6. The Project Board considered the outcome of the tender process and recommended that the contract be awarded to Computacentre working in partnership with Telent.
7. Detailed negotiations on contractual matters, supported by the Authority's legal team were successfully completed and the Chief Fire Officer signed the contract on 4 May 2011. Work is now ongoing to finalise the agreement on the project programme and works will commence in due course.

### **Shropshire Fire and Rescue Collaboration**

8. Early discussions on the development of a shared resilient control room infrastructure with Shropshire have been in progress. The most immediate issue has been to request access to additional funding from Government following the termination of the previous national project.
9. Informal discussions were held with DCLG which led to a formal meeting with Departmental officials, Chairmen and Chief Fire Officers of both Authorities in Shropshire on 28 March 2011.
10. A joint presentation was made to set out the case for funding. In addition, an outline business case has been developed which was submitted to the DCLG with the Authority's response to the Government's consultation on the future of Control Services in England.
11. A response to this request for funding is still awaited. Whilst the Authority has agreed funding for the core system, key risk critical components such as Mobile Data Terminals, originally due to be supplied as part of the national project, remain unfunded. This issue continues to be pursued by officers with DCLG as a matter of urgency.

### **Conclusion/Summary**

12. Good progress has been made in the procurement of a new Command and Control system. The Service is now entering the development and implementation phase of the project programme. The Project Board will continue to meet regularly to oversee progress and ensure the effective delivery of the new system, with programme updates being reported to Committee through the Service's routine performance reporting process.

### **Financial Considerations**

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are financial issues that require consideration	Y	Para 10 & 11. Response to funding application awaited from DCLG.

## Legal Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are legal issues e.g. contractual and procurement, reputational issues that require consideration	Y	Contractual issues which have been scrutinised by Authority's legal advisors from Herefordshire.

## Additional Considerations

13. The table below sets out any additional issues arising from the proposals contained in this report and identifies the relevant paragraphs in the report where such issues are addressed

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
<b>Resources</b> (e.g. Assets, ICT, Human Resources, Training & Development, Sustainability).	Y	Resourcing issues are being reviewed as part of programme development and implementation phases.
<b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	Y	Set out to the Authority in previous reports
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	Y	Risk register maintained at project Board level. This project addresses a key strategic risk on the Authority's risk register.
<b>Consultation with Representative Bodies</b>	Y	Ongoing – a key work package in the project programme.

## **Background Information**

Response by Hereford & Worcester FRA to Department of Communities and Local Government's Consultation on the Future of Fire and Rescue Control Services in England, as approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on 24 March 2011.

## **Contact Officer**

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