



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

<b>MEETING</b>	Executive Committee
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	15 July 2020
<b>OFFICER</b>	Calum Bell, Head of Service Development
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Councillor David Hopkins
<b>SUBJECT OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP)</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>This paper provides Members with a further update regarding the national status of the programme and its impact on regional and local transition. The last briefing was provided to Members in November 2019.</p> <p>The Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) is a national programme to deliver an Emergency Services Network (ESN) which will upgrade the current radio system used by emergency services (Airwave). ESN is a system that has not yet been implemented anywhere else in the world, and as such carries significant risk. The current Airwave system is extremely reliable but has limited data capability and is very expensive.</p> <p>The Emergency Services Network will be provided by two commercial companies, Motorola and EE. It will utilise the Public Services Network (PSN) via mobile network operators using 5G LTE (Long Term Evolution) for the transmission of voice and data traffic between emergency service resources. The Programme is extremely complex and has already been subject to a number of delays.</p> <p>In the last briefing, Members were informed of the proposed timetable for the release of details of the revised Full Business Case (FBC). The FBC was due to have been completed early in 2020 and should have passed through various governance stages in order to be released around May 2020. However, we have received notification that it will not now be released for some time. This is in part due to Programme resources being re-assigned to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, assessment of impact of the pandemic and how it might affect ways of working and the delivery of the various aspects of the project. A document to outline the strategic case for the FBC has been released to User Organisations however we are unable to discuss this as it remains commercially sensitive at this stage.</p>

	<p>Members will recall from the last briefing that there was a proposal to transition the Hampshire and Isle of Wight fire services from the South Central region to the South West region. This is due to those services being part of the Networked Fire Control Services Partnership which encompasses the fire services within the South West region. Arrangements are complete to facilitate this move and the financial aspects have now been agreed. A letter has now been submitted to the NFCC leads which has been approved in principal but there remains a process to applied which is likely to take several weeks.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	Noting
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	Members are requested to note the report.
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	<p>Officers from this Service continue to work closely with our partner fire and rescue services in Thames Valley and with Thames Valley Police, to prepare for the new Emergency Services Network. Regular iterations of the national delivery plan are being received and compared against the regional version. The latest national version released in April 2020 indicates that all Fire Services will have transitioned from the Airwave system onto the ESN by Q4 2024. This would mean that the earliest point at which the Airwave system can be switched off would be Q4 2024, however the official date for this is still December 2022.</p> <p>Members will recall from the last briefing that we provided an update regarding the ongoing discussion regarding the provision of a separate Direct Network Service Provider (DNSP) link with Home Office team members. This link would provide BFRS with a direct link into the ESN without having to go through the link established with the Thames Valley Fire Control Service. We had written a further letter to the Central Programme regarding this issue thanking them for their continued engagement with us to produce a potential solution to this issue. We have since received a response from the Programme which has still to provide the assurance that the organisation will not be disadvantage by not having this link so discussions continue at this stage.</p> <p>Officers from the Service will continue to monitor developments from the national Programme and report to Members as appropriate.</p>
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<p>Regional funding continues to be overseen via the South Central Programme Board and service draw down funding to cover the costs of day-to-day delivery of the project. These costs are monitored by the financial lead for the South Central Programme Board,</p>

	<p>a role held by the Deputy Director of Finance and Assets in BFRS. The region reports on a quarterly basis regarding the ESMCP transition grant funding.</p>
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<p>Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service have already signed up to the principles of the ESN. Officers will continue to monitor the progress of the Programme closely and will provide challenge to the process where it is felt necessary.</p>
<b>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE</b>	<p>This Authority remains an active participant of the South Central Transition Delivery arrangements. The governance and delivery models have now been established and Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service officers are involved at each level. The principle has been adopted that information is shared across all five services and where appropriate, joint responses to work requests are submitted.</p> <p>The Head of Service Development is the Vice Chair of the Regional Strategic Board and is also the Fire representative on the equivalent Police Board.</p> <p>Funding awards have been pooled centrally, and Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service are now acting as treasurers for the region.</p>
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>	<p>There are no health and safety implications perceived at this time. There is constant review of this and any issues that may arise in the future will be referred.</p>
<b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY</b>	<p>There have been no equality and diversity implications identified to date. As the programme progresses, further information, and a confirmed plan become available, then an Integrated Impact Assessment will be completed.</p>
<b>USE OF RESOURCES</b>	<p>As stated in previous updates to Members, the organisation's Programme Manager is the Project Manager for ESMCP delivery.</p> <p>The Area Commander Service Development is the Senior User for this Authority and is Vice Chair of the South Central Steering Group.</p>
<b>PROVENANCE SECTION &amp; BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>ESMCP is the programme, which will provide the next generation of mobile communications for emergency services and will replace the Airwave Tetra network introduced to fire services in 2009.</p> <p>The Programme is considered to be ground breaking and innovative and is designed to improve the integration of emergency services communications by taking advantage of 4G communications developments and by reducing costs to user organisations.</p> <p>The current national Airwave contracts have been</p>

	<p>extended and are now due to be terminated at the end of December 2022.</p> <p>The period of transition for the South Central Region was originally planned to take place between November 2017 and November 2018. These dates are have been reviewed and a revised plan is due to be released following the Programme reset.</p> <p><b>Provenance</b></p> <p>ESMCP Update March 2019                  ESMCP Update July 2019                  ESMCP Update November 2019</p>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	Appendix A: ESMCP Highlight report
<b>TIME REQUIRED</b>	10 minutes
<b>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</b>	Marie Crothers – Programme Manager <a href="mailto:mcrothers@bucksfire.gov.uk">mcrothers@bucksfire.gov.uk</a> 01296 744430 / 07765 001907

# Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme

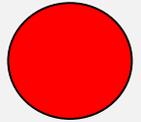
Appendix A

**Lead Member:**  
**Lead Officer:**  
**Project Manager:**  
**Business Sponsors:**

**Cllr Hopkins**  
**AC Calum Bell**  
**Marie Crothers**  
**DCFO Mick Osborne**

**Project Objectives:** The Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme will provide a new communication system for the 3 emergency services and other public safety users. This system will be called the Emergency Services Network (ESN). It will replace the current Airwave radio network. BFRS forms part of the South Central Region to deliver this work and this highlight report will focus on the regional and local delivery into this programme but will also provide high level national updates

**Overall RAG**



Finance



Plan



Risks & Issues



Scope



Resources



## Summary – Period dated: April 2020 – June 2020

### Update

- **South Central Governance** – Formal letter has been submitted to the Central Programme requesting approval for the Hants & IOW services to transfer to the South West region. The NFCC leads have indicated that they are comfortable with this move, however there is a process to go through which is likely to take some weeks. The finances for the move have been agreed between both regions but requires sign-off at Programme level.
- **Full Business Case** – still yet to be released – we have received notification that the transition of the FBC through the governance process has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and re-allocation of resources centrally. A document outlining the strategic case for ESN has been released to Programme Team members and its content is currently being reviewed. It cannot be released at this stage as much of it is deemed commercially sensitive.
- **National Plan** – The latest iteration was released in April 2020. – this version shows the planned date at which all Capita system Control Rooms which will be ESN ready is set at Q2 2023 and that all Fire Services will have completed transition by Q4 2024. However the current date for the switch off of the Airwave system officially remains at December 2022.

The latest plan shows the earliest possible date for Airwave switch off as being Q4 2024 however this has not officially confirmed at this stage. The continued preference for Thames Valley officers is that all TV Services have completed transition 12 months prior to the confirmed Airwave cut-off date.

**DNSP** – the question of whether BFRS will require its own DNSP link to access ESN in order to manage devices has yet to be resolved.

There has been little movement regarding this matter due to the Covid-19 pandemic however this will be addressed within the next period.

**Finance** – We have recently received notification from the Home Office Fire and Resilience Directorate confirming the roles and expenditure in relation to grant funding they will accept for the year 2020/21. Some minor adjustments were proposed, taking into account the move of the Hants and IOW services to the South West Region. These changes have been approved at Programme level as the region costs will remain within the funding envelope.

## Priorities for Next Period: April – June 2020

- *Strategic case information to be reviewed and Service comments to be returned to the Programme*
- *Review of Critical Operational Locations to be undertaken by each User Organisation*
- *Discussion to take place regarding the next steps to be taken to resolve the long-outstanding DNSP query raised with the Programme Director.*
- *Work to continue to prepare for the release of two devices per FRS in order to carry out local coverage testing and assurance activities (Assure 1.1) – review of the recently released guidance documents and discussions within the SC region to decide how the assure work can be approached collaboratively.*
- *Assure 1.1 Usage conditions sign off forms to be completed*

### Key Milestones

### Forecast/ Actual

FBC review complete	<b>Delayed</b>
ESN Assure 1.1 – Gate 5 review	<b>Complete</b>
ESN Assure 2.0 (TBC)	Q4 20
England Urban Coverage Complete (South Central)	Q4 20 (TBC)
ESN Prime	Q4 20
Airwave National Shutdown	Dec 22 (contingency Dec 23)
<b>Local:</b> Continue dialogue with central team to resolve DNSP issue	Ongoing

## Key Decisions Required

None at this stage – for information only

Risk/ Issue	RAG	Description	Mitigating Action
ESMC P001	22	Delay in the implementation of ESMCP. Delay in the procurement process, legal challenge, deferred business case. Financial cost to Home Office and potential higher contract costs	Budget/costing issues fed into FCG and Programme
ESMC P016	22	If post transition costs are not provided UOs will not be able to accurately budget for the new service leading to financial pressures and reputational damage.	Raised to SC Programme Board and Fire Customer Group. Reps from SC region continually raise this as an issue with the Programme
ESMC P030	22	Extending Transition timescales will now clash with contract end dates and potential system refresh of mobilising systems	Being highlighted as an issue during the current Deployment Planning discussions

*There are currently 32 risks listed on the SC Risk Register – the top 3 are displayed here – the full register is available on request*