

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND MILTON KEYNES FIRE AUTHORITY
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Director of Legal & Governance, Graham Britten
Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service
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Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive
Louise Harrison

To: The Members of the Executive Committee

8 October 2026

**MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND
PUBLIC**

Please note the content of Page 2
of this Agenda Pack.

To contact our Communication
Team, please email
cteam@bucksfire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

Your attendance is requested at a **SPECIAL** meeting of the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** of the **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND MILTON KEYNES FIRE AUTHORITY** to be held in **MEETING ROOM 1, HEADQUARTERS, STOCKLAKE, AYLESBURY, BUCKS HP20 1BD**, on **FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2026 at 10.00 AM** when the business set out overleaf will be transacted.

Yours faithfully

Graham Britten
Director of Legal and Governance

Health and Safety:

There will be limited facilities for members of the public to observe the meeting in person. A recording of the meeting will be available after the meeting, at the web address provided overleaf.

Chairman: Hussain (N)

Councillors: Geary, Hall, Hughes, Khan, Monger, Rouse and Stuchbury



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Recording of the meeting

The Authority supports the principles of openness and transparency. To enable members of the press and public to see or hear the meeting, this meeting will be recorded. Please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWmIXPWAscxpL3vIiv7bh1Q>

The Authority also allows the use of social networking websites and blogging to communicate with people about what is happening, as it happens.

Adjournment and Rights to Speak – Public

The Authority may adjourn a Meeting to hear a member of the public on a particular agenda item. The proposal to adjourn must be moved by a Member, seconded and agreed by a majority of the Members present and voting.

A request to speak on a specified agenda item should be submitted by email to gbritten@bucksfire.gov.uk by 4pm on the Monday prior to the meeting. Please state if you would like the Director of Legal and Governance to read out the statement on your behalf, or if you would like to be sent a 'teams' meeting invitation to join the meeting at the specified agenda item.

If the meeting is then adjourned, prior to inviting a member of the public to speak, the Chairman should advise that they:

- (a) speak for no more than four minutes,
- (b) should only speak once unless the Chairman agrees otherwise.

The Chairman should resume the Meeting as soon as possible, with the agreement of the other Members present. Adjournments do not form part of the Meeting.

Rights to Speak - Members

A Member of the constituent Councils who is not a Member of the Authority may attend Meetings of the Authority or its Committees to make a statement on behalf of the Member's constituents in the case of any item under discussion which directly affects the Member's division, with the prior consent of the Chairman of the Meeting which will not be unreasonably withheld. The Member's statement will not last longer than four minutes. Such attendance will be facilitated if requests are made to enquiries@bucksfire.gov.uk at least two clear working days before the meeting. Statements can be read out on behalf of the Member by the Director of Legal and Governance, or the Member may request a 'teams' meeting invitation to join the meeting at the specified agenda item.

Where the Chairman of a Committee has agreed to extend an invitation to all Members of the Authority to attend when major matters of policy are being considered, a Member who is not a member of the Committee may attend and speak at such Meetings at the invitation of the Chairman of that Committee.

Questions

Members of the Authority, or its constituent councils, District, or Parish Councils may submit written questions prior to the Meeting to allow their full and proper consideration. Such questions shall be received by the Monitoring Officer to the Authority, *in writing*, at least two clear working days before the day of the Meeting of the Authority or the Committee.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To make all decisions on behalf of the Authority, except in so far as reserved to the full Authority by law or by these Terms of Reference.
2. To assess performance of the Authority against agreed organisational targets.
3. To determine matters relating to pay and remuneration where required by collective agreements or legislation.
4. To select on behalf of the Authority-the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive, and deputy to the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive, or equivalent, taking advice from suitable advisers and to make recommendations to the Authority as to the terms of appointment or dismissal.
5. To consider and make decisions on behalf of the Authority in respect of the appointment of a statutory finance officer; a statutory monitoring officer; and any post to be contracted to “Gold Book” terms and conditions in whole or in part taking advice from the Chief Fire Officer and suitable advisers.
6. To act as the Employers’ Side of a negotiating and consultation forum for all matters relating to the employment contracts of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive, deputy to the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive, or equivalent; and where relevant, employees contracted to “Gold Book” terms and conditions in whole or in part.
7. To hear appeals if required to do so in accordance with the Authority’s Policies.
8. To determine any human resources issues arising from the Authority’s budget process and improvement programme.
9. To determine policies, codes or guidance:
 - (a) after considering recommendations from the Overview and Audit Committee in respect of:
 - (i) regulating working relationships between members and co-opted members of the Authority and the employees of the Authority; and
 - (ii) governing the conduct of employees of the Authority
 - (b) relating to grievance, disciplinary, conduct, capability, dismissals and appeals relating to employees contracted to “Gold Book” terms and conditions in whole or in part.
10. To form a Human Resources Sub-Committee as it deems appropriate.

AGENDA

Item No:

1. Apologies

2. Disclosure of Interests

Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in any matter being considered which are not entered onto the Authority's Register, and officers to disclose any interests they may have in any contract to be considered.

3. Questions

To receive questions in accordance with Standing Order SOA7.

4. Extension and variation of the Thames Valley Fire Control Service Inter Authority Agreement

To consider Item 4 **(Pages 5 to 10)**

5. Exclusion of Public and Press

To consider excluding the public and press representatives from the meeting by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as the reports contain information relating to any individual; and Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as the reports contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of a person (including the Authority); and on these grounds it is considered the need to keep information exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

6. TVFCS Command & Control Replacement

To consider Item 6 **(Pages 11 to 16)**

7. Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive Recruitment

(To follow)

8. Date of next meeting

To note that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Wednesday 18 November 2026 at 10 am.

If you have any enquiries about this agenda, please contact: Katie Nellist (Business Support Officer) – Tel: (01296) 744633 email: knellist@bucksfire.gov.uk



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

Meeting and date: Executive Committee, 16 October 2026

Report title: Extension and variation of the Thames Valley Fire Control Service Inter Authority Agreement

Lead Member: Councillor Llew Monger, Lead Member for Service Delivery, Protection and Collaboration

Report sponsor: Chief Fire Officer

Author and contact: Director of Legal and Governance gbritten@bucksfire.gov.uk

Action: Decision

Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

1. the Chief Fire Officer be authorised, in consultation with the Lead Member for Service Delivery, Protection and Collaboration, and the Chairman of the Executive Committee, to approve and enter into the Deed of Variation on substantially the terms described with Oxfordshire County Council and Royal Berkshire Fire Authority to give effect to the extension and variation of the Thames Valley Fire Control Service Steady State Inter Authority Agreement; and that
2. approval be given for the affixing of the Authority's Seal to the Deed of Variation

Executive summary: At its meeting on 31 October 2012, when it approved participation with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA) in the Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) programme the Authority resolved that the Chief Fire Officer be authorised to enter into the required contractual commitments with OCC and RBFA in consultation with the Authority Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Executive Committee Vice- Chairman. These contractual commitments are expressed in the [TVFCS Steady State Inter Authority Agreement \(IAA\)](#)

The three Thames Valley fire and rescue authorities established the TVFCS under the IAA dated 22 April 2015. The existing mobilising system contract is to be replaced by a new Command and Control System contract (CCS Contract), the details of which

are contained in a companion report in the Agenda for this Special Meeting of the Executive Committee

The proposed Deed of Variation will align the duration of the IAA with the initial seven-year term of that replacement contract (2033), the duration of which would not be permissible under certain provisions of the TVFCS IAA, and updates selected governance, operational and financial provisions. The underlying allocation of statutory functions, the joint committee structure, the role of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority as operator and accounting authority, and the general liability and exit framework remain in force except where expressly varied.

Approval to enter the Deed of Variation subject to final confirmations of non-material aspects of it via the Chief Fire Officer and her TVFCS counterparts will provide continuity of the TVFCS and for the Authority to discharge its statutory obligations to have in place effective arrangements for receiving and responding to calls for help while ensuring that the execution version is complete and internally consistent.

Financial implications: The Deed does not itself approve a budget or incur the CCS Contract costs. It changes how certain costs will be funded and apportioned. CCS Contract charges will be shared equally; other revenue expenditure will remain subject to the Cost Apportionment Model. Agreed CCS implementation costs, including eligible internal resource costs, may be met from the Renewals Account through the approved capital programme

Risk management: Aligning the Agreement with the CCS Contract reduces the risk of the collaborative governance framework expiring while the authorities remain committed to the replacement system.

LGR/Devolution. If a merger of OCC and RBFA into a single fire and rescue authority were to occur as a result of local government reorganisation (LGR) the merged authority would become the statutory successor to both OCC's and RBFA's fire and rescue functions, assets, liabilities and contractual rights under the IAA. Clause 39.1 of the IAA binds permitted successors and assigns. Moreover, the IAA already contemplates continuing with two remaining authorities under clauses 2.3 and 29, so the TVFCS could continue as between BMKFA and a merged OCC/RBFA fire and rescue authority and the cost apportionment percentages adjusted accordingly. In advance of the date of the statutory merger, the authorities/shadow authority would be required to agree the necessary revisions to the governance arrangements of the TVFCS joint committee.

Insofar as BMKFA might be impacted by MKCC becoming aligned under a separate fire and rescue authority footprint, and, for example, Buckinghamshire Council becoming the successor body under the IAA, the cost apportionment percentages under the IAA would become adjusted according.

Other provisions of the IAA cover 'Reorganisation' defined as '*statutory or strategic reorganisation of a Fire Authority initiated by the Government which shall include a reorganisation of the boundaries or strategic partners of the Fire Authority but shall not include situations of internal reorganisation only*' under which the prospective BMKFA successor would be able trigger the exit protocol under the IAA.

Term and commencement. The variations take effect on the later of execution of the Deed and commencement of the CCS Contract. Until then, the 2015 Agreement continues unchanged. The Expiry Date becomes the end of the CCS Contract's initial term, rather than the fifteenth anniversary of the 2015 Agreement (22 April 2030). The existing requirement to begin discussions three years before expiry is retained and will operate by reference to the revised date.

Governance and decision-making. The amendments clarify that the Coordination Group comprises one Head of Function from each authority, with finance and other specialists attending in a non-voting capacity when required. Coordination Group decisions remain unanimous among the Heads of Function present and unresolved matters continue to escalate through Principal Officers and, where appropriate, the Joint Committee. Approval of new or materially varied TVFCS contracts remains an Authority Decision, but an authority may evidence approval through its Head of Function in writing or by email. This is intended to permit timely decisions without changing the requirement for unanimous authority approval.

Operational management. Terminology is updated to reflect the current TVFCS Group Manager/Control Manager arrangements and to improve the written audit trail for Coordination Group instructions. The Group Manager is treated as part of the permanent TVFCS staffing structure rather than a rotating or seconded post. The respective responsibilities of RBFA for operating TVFCS and of OCC and BMKFA for technical support remain substantially unchanged.

Financial arrangements. Revenue contributions are to be paid quarterly rather than monthly. Approval thresholds for losses and additional revenue expenditure are rationalised so that the Coordination Group may approve amounts up to £20,000, the Joint Committee amounts above £20,000 and up to £50,000, and the Authorities amounts above £50,000 or expenditure that would exceed the approved budget.

The Renewals Account is broadened so that agreed implementation expenditure for the CCS Contract, including eligible internal resource costs, may be funded through the Renewals Fund. CCS Contract charges are to be shared equally between the three authorities; other revenue costs continue to be apportioned under the Cost Apportionment Model.

Cost apportionment and oversight. The Cost Apportionment Model is refreshed using updated population, tax-base and incident data, producing indicative shares of 37.5% for RBFA, 28.8% for OCC and 33.7% for BMKFA. The next formal three-year review is

moved to after 31 March 2027 for application from 2028/29, while annual reporting of the underlying data is retained. The annual revenue and capital budget, reconciliation and reporting processes remain, with drafting clarified to accommodate projected CCS implementation expenditure and agreed contingencies.

Contractual continuity. The CCS Contract is added to the defined contractual framework and its implementation and operational charges are expressly integrated into the budgeting arrangements. Existing provisions on third-party income, insurance, liabilities, default, voluntary withdrawal, reorganisation and consequences of expiry continue to apply. The practical effect is therefore an extension and targeted update of the collaboration, not a replacement agreement or a transfer of one authority's statutory responsibilities to another.

Matters to complete before execution. The final deed will contain the CCS Contract date and commencement arrangements once these have been approved; current lists of TVFCS contracts, third-party income arrangements and processes/procedures.

Legal implications: The Deed varies the 2015 Agreement only from the Variation Date and preserves all unvaried provisions. It extends the Expiry Date, updates defined terms and governance arrangements and integrates the CCS Contract into the financial framework.

It does not delegate statutory functions to another authority or create a partnership. Execution as a deed by all three authorities is required.

Privacy and security implications: No new sharing of personal data is created by the Deed. Existing information law, confidentiality, record-retention and information-sharing obligations continue.

Duty to collaborate: The proposal continues an established collaboration between the three Thames Valley fire and authorities for joint emergency call handling, mobilisation and resource management hosted and staffed by RBFA. It does not extend the collaboration to policing or ambulance bodies, but it preserves the ability to consider future partners and third-party service arrangements through the existing unanimous decision process.

Health and safety implications: No direct adverse health and safety implications arise from the legal variation. Existing obligations to operate the primary and secondary control rooms safely and in accordance with the respective authorities' policies remain.

Environmental implications: No material environmental or biodiversity impact is expected from approval of the Deed. Environmental impacts associated with procurement, installation and operation of the CCS will be managed through the CCS programme and the relevant contracts.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion implications: The proposed legal and governance changes apply equally to the participating authorities and do not directly affect individuals on the basis of a protected characteristic. No adverse equality impact has been identified.

Consultation and communication: The draft has been developed with legal and operational representatives of BMKFA, OCC and RBFA and has been subject to working-group review. The comments recorded in the working draft show broad agreement on the principal changes, with specified matters reserved to finance leads and updated schedules to be supplied. Following approval, the final agreed deed will be circulated for execution by all three authorities and the operational and finance teams will be briefed on the revised governance and payment arrangements.

Next steps: The Coordination Group will incorporate the revised contribution, reporting and contract-approval arrangements into its forward work programme and monitoring will continue via the TVFCS Joint Committee.

Background papers:

[Legal Agreement relating to the Steady State Operation of the Thames Valley Fire Control Service dated 22 April 2015](#)

[TVFCS Joint Committee 12 December 2024: Item 9. TVFCS Replacement Project Mandate \(Pages 21 - 30\) Item 11. Thames Valley Fire Control - Contingency Call Handling Tender \(Pages 43 - 48\)](#)

[TVFCS Joint Committee 22 September 2025: Item 8. Future of the Legal Agreement relating to the Steady State Operation of the Thames Valley Fire Control Service \(Pages 15- 20\) Item 11. TVFCS Technology Replacement Programme update \(Pages 35-44\)](#)

[TVFCS Joint Committee 15 December 2025: Item 11. TVFCS Technology Replacement Initial Business Case \(Pages 39- 48\)](#)

[TVFCS Joint Committee 16 March 2026: Item 10. Inter Authority Agreement Progress Update \(Pages 31 - 36\) Item 11. TVFCS C&C Procurement \(Pages 37- 44\)](#)

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Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

Meeting and date: Executive Committee, 16 October 2026

Report title: TVFCS Command & Control Replacement

Lead Member: Councillor Llew Monger, Chairman

Report sponsor: Simon Tuffley, Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Author and contact: Paul Scanes Head of Response & Resilience

Action: Approval

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

1. the award of a contract to the preferred bidder (as detailed in Annex A) be approved for the Thames Valley Fire Control Service Command-and-Control System to replace the current system; and
2. the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, be delegated authority to finalise any necessary terms of the contract for the Command-and-Control System.

Executive summary

Thames Valley Fire Control Service ('TVFCS') is a joint arrangement between Oxford County Council (OCC); Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA); and Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority ('BMKFA') together known as 'the Authorities'. This was established in 2015.

The Authorities share a common Command and Control centre located in Reading and a fall-back provision at a secondary control room located in Kidlington, Oxfordshire. The operational working arrangements and finance contributions are defined in an agreement made between the Authorities in April 2015 and known as the 'Steady State Legal Agreement'. This agreement has a current expiry date of 22 April 2030.

TVFCS is procuring a replacement mission-critical Command and Control system to support emergency call handling, mobilisation, incident management and associated operational control functions across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Services.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) is leading the procurement on behalf of the TVFCS partner Authorities. The procurement has been conducted as a Competitive Flexible Procedure (CFP) under the Procurement Act 2023, using structured participation checks, written quality and cost evaluation, operational demonstrations, presentations and provision for controlled negotiation.

The contract issued to tenderers was typical of that for a “blue light” Command and Control Service and a modern ICT technology platform with elements of the solution provided in the “cloud”. The Authorities will enter into the contract jointly. It is for an initial period of seven years from the date of the contract with an option for the Authorities to extend for a further period of up to three years.

This report should be considered in conjunction with the separate report that seeks to align and extend the Steady State Legal Agreement to the potential end of the initial seven-year period for the new Command and Control system contract and reaffirm the operational inputs and financial contribution of each Authority.

For the purpose of this report, the supplier for the new TVFCS Command and Control replacement system has been selected based on their submitted responses to the requirements that were set out in the Invitation to Tender (ITT) and the evaluation model, also set out in the ITT, which assessed them as being the most advantageous tender at the completion of the procurement.

The procurement record includes published evaluation criteria, clarification logs, conflict of interest declarations, moderation records, legal support and recurring governance reporting. Operational users, ICT, information governance, commercial, finance and senior service stakeholders have been engaged during requirements development and evaluation and approval.

The preferred solution is intended to replace the legacy NEC Vision CAD and DS3000 ICCS arrangements that are approaching end of life, while supporting operational resilience, cyber security, Airwave compliance, future ESN/MCX and NG999 developments, integration and service continuity through implementation. The intended start date of the preferred bidder solution is 1 April 2028.

*****The terms NG999 and ESN/MCX refer to significant developments in the UK emergency communications system:***

NG999 is associated with the Emergency Services Network (ESN), which aims to replace the legacy Airwave system with a next generation network that enhances communication capabilities for emergency services.

ESN/MCX stands for Mission Critical Communications (MCX), which is a standard that enables voice, data, and video communication over LTE, enhancing situational awareness and response times for emergency services.

These developments are part of a broader initiative to improve public safety and operational efficiency in emergency response.

The TVFCS Command and Control Programme Board, which is attended by relevant officers from each Authority, agreed on 8 Sept 2026 to recommend that the supplier's submitted proposals should be accepted, subject to contract. Each Authority now intends, through its defined governance processes to seek endorsement of the recommendation.

Financial implications: The preferred bidder's whole-life contract price is considered affordable and remains within the approved budget envelope of the original business case. The only exception relates to the timing of funding requirements in Years 1 to 3 when compared with the business case approved by TVFCS Joint Committee in December 2025. This variance is primarily driven by implementation costs being higher than originally anticipated. As a result, an additional £0.200m contribution per Service to the Renewals Fund will be required in 2027/28, over and above the £0.090m already included per service within approved budgets. This represents a timing difference rather than an increase in the overall whole-life cost of the contract and is expected to be offset over the duration of the contract.

While the contract price remains within the anticipated whole-life budget, the overall programme cost also includes internal programme resources. Some of these costs are already known, while others will be finalised following contract award to the preferred bidder. Although this may lead to some additional expenditure, it is anticipated that total programme costs will remain within the financial assumptions set out in the original business case (**Annex B**).

Risk Management: TVFCS operates a shared emergency control function for the three Authorities. The replacement system is intended, to maintain safe and resilient 24/7/365 emergency control operations and to reduce reliance on legacy technology that may become unsupported or non-compliant.

The requirement was developed through operational and technical engagement, including control room users and subject matter experts, business-system mapping, gap analysis, workshops, supplier engagement, technical standards, ICT and procurement review, and learning from other Fire and Rescue Service procurements. This broad evidence base supports a supplier-neutral specification focused on TVFCS operational outcomes.

The supporting Programme Risk Register identifies Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution as a governance and funding risk. The Contract shared with all Tenderers, anticipates and makes provision for such decisions and Change Control will be used to execute any changes that may be required.

Legal implications: The Authorities have responsibilities placed on them under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to make arrangements for dealing with calls for help and for summoning personnel in connection with firefighting, road traffic accidents and other emergencies in their area.

The new Command and Control system to be provided under the Contract is to support emergency call handling, mobilisation, incident management and associated operational control functions as further described in this report.

The procurement has been conducted as a Competitive Flexible Procedure under the Procurement Act 2023.

External legal advice was given to the Authorities regarding the ITT and during the procurement process by an external law firm which has prepared the draft contract and will provide advice on the final contract terms and conditions.

The final contract will be completed by being executed as a deed by all three fire authorities following completion of supporting governance by each Authority.

Privacy and security implications: The Report attached at **Annex A** contains commercially sensitive information relating to the preferred bidder's submission.

TVFCS Authorities will comply with all transparency obligations under the Procurement Act 2023, including publication of the required Notices at the relevant stages of the award process. (i.e. a UK6 Contract Award Notice and a UK7 Contract Details Notice if the award proceeds as planned).

Duty to collaborate: The replacement programme supports the Authority's responsibilities and the wider TVFCS partnership objective of maintaining resilient emergency-service control arrangements. It contributes to safe and effective public services by protecting the continuity of emergency call handling, mobilisation and incident-management capability across the Thames Valley.

The programme also supports collaborative working between the partner Authorities and the development of modern, secure and interoperable technology.

Health and safety implications: No direct health and safety implications have been identified at this stage. This will however be continually assessed by the programme board as this moves forward into the implementation stage.

Environmental implications: Social Value components were included in the ITT for this procurement and environmental sustainability formed part of the preferred bidders tendered approach to local area regeneration.

Sustainability performance will be reviewed through the contract-governance arrangements. The preferred bidder has committed to quarterly reporting, evidence and audit-trail maintenance, corrective action planning and annual review of its delivery priorities. Its Tender states that performance below 90% against committed measures will trigger a corrective action plan.

The supplier commitments are expected to support reduced travel and paper use. They do not, in themselves, represent a complete assessment of the programme's climate impact. The wider assessment should also consider equipment manufacture and disposal, energy consumption, hosting and infrastructure, implementation activity, operational travel and the treatment of displaced legacy equipment.

Equality, diversity and inclusion Implications: The procurement concerns the replacement of operational command and control technology. The existing Equality & Inclusion policies of RBFRS shall continue to apply to the new Contract and no changes are anticipated. That said the existing policies will be reviewed prior to Go-Live and will include an assessment of accessibility, usability for staff, the effectiveness of implementation and training arrangements, and whether any changes to working practices could create disproportionate impacts.

It should be noted that TVFCS, in its planning for this procurement, has actively engaged with control room staff that will be utilising the solution and each operational watch was given the opportunity to participate in evaluating the solutions proposed. Feedback will continue to be taken during the planned on-boarding and training events and TVFCS will confirm that existing RBFRS procedures do not need amendment and will continue to apply.

Consultation and Communication: Operational control room staff and representatives, ICT, information governance, commercial, finance, FBU, programme and senior-service stakeholders have contributed to requirements development and evaluation. The Stage 3a demonstrations provided supervised operational exposure, with user feedback used as supporting evidence within the published evaluation and moderation approach.

A TVFCS Command & Control Programme Board was established for this procurement and representation from all participating authorities was made. Feedback from this group was made to each Authorities' Senior Leadership Teams.

A Joint Committee representing each of the participating Authorities met quarterly throughout the procurement and offered comment and critique. Councillors from each Authority attended.

Other Fire and Rescue Services who had undertaken similar procurements in the recent past (last two years) or were similarly considering Tenders, were contacted as part of the market engagement and development of the Commercial Strategy. Additional contact has been made as part of the preferred bidder decision to better understand whether there were any implementation or operational risks that should be noted.

Background papers:

[TVFCS Joint Committee 12 December 2024: Item 9. TVFCS Replacement Project Mandate \(Pages 21 - 30\) Item 11. Thames Valley Fire Control - Contingency Call Handling Tender \(Pages 43 - 48\)](#)

[TVFCS Joint Committee 22 September 2025: Item 8. Future of the Legal Agreement relating to the Steady State Operation of the Thames Valley Fire Control Service \(Pages 15- 20\) Item 11. TVFCS Technology Replacement Programme update \(Pages 35-44\)](#)

[TVFCS Joint Committee 15 December 2025: Item 11. TVFCS Technology Replacement Initial Business Case \(Pages 39- 48\)](#)

<u>Appendix</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Protective Marking</u>
Annex A	Exempt Information – Commercial Sensitive	Exempt from publication Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
Annex B	Initial Business Case	Exempt from publication Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).