

COLLABORATION ON FIRE CONTROL MOBILISING SYSTEMS



REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

For Information

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on Fire Control collaboration between Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington, Hereford and Worcester, and Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members note the progress on the Fire Control collaboration project for the provision of a new Fire Control mobilising system between Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington, Hereford and Worcester, and Shropshire and Wrekin FRAs.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, Part 2 Sections 7(2)(c), 8(2)(c) and 9(3)(c), places a duty on Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) to make arrangements for dealing with calls for help and summoning personnel.
- 3.2 The Brigade operates its own call handling and mobilising services from the primary Fire Control Room at the Queens Meadow Training and Administration Hub in Hartlepool. For resilience purposes, secondary Fire Control Room facilities exist at Shropshire Fire & Rescue Headquarters in Shrewsbury.
- 3.3 The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018 sets out the priorities for FRAs one being to collaborate with other emergency services to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the services they provide. To this end and, as an outcome, from the Authority's integrated risk management planning activities a strategic project was established to review and inform the nature of our future provision of fire call handling and mobilising services. This project is contained within the Authority's Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 which was approved on the 25 March 2022 (minute 125.1). Funding for the outcomes of this strategic project is secured through the Authority's Asset Management Plan.
- 3.4 Progress reports on the Fire Control collaboration project have been provided to the Authority on a regular basis with the latest report being presented to the Executive Committee on 19 June 2023 (minute 17.1 refers). At that meeting it was resolved that the contract for the provision of the new Fire Control mobilising system be awarded to Motorola Solutions.

4. PROGRESS

- 4.1 Following rounds of negotiations between the four collaborating FRAs and Motorola Solutions, final agreement on the contract was reached and signed off in December 2023. Hereford and Worcester FRA as lead authority has entered into a Master Customer Agreement and Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington, and Shropshire FRAs have entered into addendum agreements.
- 4.2 A strategic steering board for the project has been established between the four FRAs and a collaborative agreement has been drawn up and signed in December 2023. The agreement covers project management, local delivery, ongoing contract management and operational use.
- 4.3 The collaborative agreement allows for the possibility that additional FRAs may be added in the future, by the unanimous decision of the four existing FRAs, where this can demonstrate additional cost savings and resilience.
- 4.4 Due to the length of the contract negotiation period, the milestones associated with the project have been revised. The project start date is now January 2024 and the go-live date is expected to be June 2025.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Further updates will be provided to members regarding collaboration on the new Fire Control mobilising system as the project progresses.

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