

18 January 2010

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## **FiReControl**

### **Summary**

Members will receive an update from Roger Hargreaves, Programme Director at CLG. Members are also asked to note the LGA's submission on FiReControl to the CLG Select Committee.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to

- receive an update on the project
- note the Select Committee submission.

### **Action**

As decided by members

Contact Officer: Trish O'Flynn  
Phone No: 020 7664 3129  
Email: [trish.oflynn@lga.gov.uk](mailto:trish.oflynn@lga.gov.uk)

## **FiReControl**

### **Background**

1. Since the Committee discussed the FiReControl project at its meeting on 23 November 2009, there has been a significant development: the change of a major sub-contractor on the project.

### **Change of subcontractor**

2. In early December CLG informed us that EADS Defence & Security had awarded a contract to Intergraph for the mobilising system – a key part of the FiReControl solution. At the same time EADS informed CLG of their intent to terminate their existing contract with Ericsson for this part of the solution.
3. Following a detailed impact assessment EADS does not currently believe that a change to Intergraph will have any significant adverse impact on the delivery timetable and have assured Ministers that they will put in place increased investment to secure delivery. CLG are working with EADS as they complete their schedule to assure its robustness and resolve any implications of delivery date changes within the schedule. CLG have committed to involve project teams and FRAs at an early stage in developing any revised approaches and wider delivery timetables.
4. In response to this announcement, Cllr James Pearson (lead member for FiReControl for the Committee and senior LGA user on the Project Board) wrote to CLG setting out some issues for clarification. The letter is attached at **Appendix A**.

### **CLG Select Committee inquiry**

5. At its last meeting the Committee agreed to make a submission to the Select Committee inquiry. A copy of the written submission is attached at Appendix B.
6. The key points made are that:
  - the project so far has been characterised by a lack of leadership, poor procurement and contract management in government which, coupled with contractor inertia, means FiReControl is at serious risk of becoming another failed Government IT project;
  - confidence and trust in the project is at rock bottom, most Fire and Rescue Authorities are beginning to consider what alternatives to FiReControl might be put in place, some have had enough and want the project cancelled;

# 23 4

- any net additional costs falling on FRAs of the project proceeding, or failing, must be funded under New Burdens principles, this includes Firelink;
- a realistic economic and operational assessment should be made of alternatives to FiReControl to inform thinking on the future of the project.

## **Financial Implications**

7. The Government has committed that any costs arising from the FiReControl programme will be fully met by CLG under New Burdens principles. This includes development and implementation of the new ICT infrastructure and grants for any agreed net additional costs incurred by authorities in implementing the change. The total implementation cost is circa £380 million. A total of £43 million has been paid to FRAs for implementation costs to date and an additional £58 million has been indicated over the remaining two years of the CSR07 period (2009-10 and 2010-11).

## **Implications for Wales**

8. This is an England only project and therefore none identified.

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