

Fire Control

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper updates members on the progress of the Future Control Projects.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider the progress that has been made.

Action

Officers will take action as directed.

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Fire Control

Background

1. Following the collapse of FiRe Control in December 2010, a residual £81 million was distributed across Fire and Rescue Authorities to be used for improving local control systems.

Fire Control projects

2. Currently there are 22 Fire Control Improvement projects made up of:
 - 2.1. 7 Single service Control rooms
 - 2.2. 10 Collaborative Control rooms
 - 2.3. 5 Joint Control rooms (see **Appendix A** for the full list).
3. Responsibility for delivering these improvements rests with the fire and rescue authorities and sector bodies. The projects will deliver a range of local resilience, interoperability and efficiency improvements, thereby strengthening the essential building blocks of national resilience
4. The projects' activity has included:
 - 4.1. Procurement of new mobilising systems
 - 4.2. Procurement of Airwave SAN H systems (digital interface to allow data transmission)
 - 4.3. Other operational improvements including Automatic Vehicle Location Systems, Caller Line identity and Status messaging from Mobile Data Terminals.
5. Projects have also sought to enhance resilience through widening partnerships and fall-back arrangements.
6. All of the projects are scheduled to be complete by March 2015.

Project Support

7. The projects have been supported by a central team hosted by CFOA. The support team has undertaken over 65 visits to improvement projects since September 2012. The team has also established a knowledge exchange which has over 100 subscribers.
8. The team has arranged 13 countrywide seminars on a variety of topics including:
 - 8.1. Public Services Network
 - 8.2. Common data types

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- 8.3. LGA supported Airwave event
 - 8.4. Codes of Connection
 - 8.5. Emergency call Management
9. Overall over 40 Fire and Rescue Services have attended one or more of the above seminars.

Project progress

10. Although some projects have experienced delays which have pushed back completion dates, all are still on target to be completed by March 2015.
11. The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee (PAC) shows a continuing interest in the progress of FiRe Control, following its damning appraisal of the stewardship by DCLG of the original FiRe Control project.
12. At a recent PAC hearing the Communities and Local Government Permanent Secretary, Sir Bob Kerslake, assured PAC that all the projects would be completed by March 2015. Given this categoric assurance, there is renewed interest in progress from DCLG.
13. The summary national picture publish by DCLG in March 2013 noted that eight of the projects had revised forecasts for their financial benefits, but that, overall, total projected savings for all projects are now £126 million compared to a projection of £128 million in 2012, a reduction of just £2 million.
14. Collaboration requires political leadership. The progress that has been made in the, often cross-party, partnerships reflects the strength of leadership across Fire and Rescue Authorities.

Conclusion and next steps

15. The projects represent a significant move to greater collaboration across Fire and Rescue Services. The projects appear to be well managed and will deliver significant operational benefits and efficiencies.
16. FSMC will continue to receive further updates as the projects progress.

Appendix A

SINGLE CONTROL ROOM PROJECTS

- Avon
- Cleveland
- Gloucestershire
- Kent
- Durham and Darlington
- Merseyside
- London

COLLABORATIONS

- Derbyshire, Leicestershire Nottinghamshire
- Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Humberside, Lincolnshire
- North Yorkshire and Cornwall
- South Yorkshire West Yorkshire
- Essex and Bedfordshire
- Networked Fire Control Services Partnership
- Staffordshire West Midlands
- Tyne and Wear Northumberland
- Northamptonshire & Warwickshire
- Hereford Worcester Shropshire

JOINT CONTROL ROOMS

- East Sussex and West Sussex
- Thames valley Joint Control
- Cambridgeshire and Suffolk
- Surrey and Isle of White
- North West Fire Control