

Voice/Data Communications, Command and Control Systems Refresh: Update

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact Paul Raymond, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201 or Steve Worrall, Assistant Chief Fire Officer on 01743 260204.

1 Purpose of Report

This report advises Members of the recent award of contract for the provision of fully-managed Command and Control system to replace existing obsolescent legacy equipment.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is requested to note the contents of this report.

3 Background

In December 2009 the Fire Authority gave careful consideration to a range of strategic options to address the replacement of the Service's obsolescent command and control system (and ancillary equipment/software).

After considering the options, risks, planning assumptions and costs Members agreed to the undertaking of a procurement exercise to identify and appoint a suitable contractor on the proviso that all costs remained within existing budgets.

4 Procurement Exercise

A procurement exercise has been undertaken through the Government's 'OGC' Buying Solutions framework (and in adherence to the Fire Authority's Standing Orders relating to contracts). Two suppliers provided submissions through the OGC framework and a third submission was received from a partner fire and rescue service. All three submissions were evaluated by an independent specialist consultancy.

5 Award of Contract

The Fire Authority's Chair and Vice-Chair in dialogue with the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer have considered the evaluator's findings and having satisfied themselves that the recommended submission can be delivered within existing budgets have approved the award of contract to -

Computacenter-Telent.

The contractor has commenced development of the proposed replacement command and control system, with roll-out to be completed prior to the end of 2010. The contract includes significant penalties awarded against the contractor for failure to deliver against acceptance criteria and by agreed deadlines.

Following further analysis regarding the location of the replacement command and control system a decision has been taken to remain on-site at St Michael's Street, Shrewsbury, relocating to the refurbished Shrewsbury Fire Station/Headquarters building in the summer of 2011.

6 Financial Implications

The procured solution will be met within existing budgets, with an expected saving achieved during years 2 and 3 following initial year 1 set-up charges. The Treasurer's report at Agenda Item 9 sets out the financial projections.

7 Legal Comment

The statutory duty placed upon Fire and Rescue Authorities to make arrangements for dealing with calls for help and for summoning personnel is set out in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, Sections 7 (2) (c), 8 (2) (c) and 9 (3) (c).

8 Equality Impact Assessment

An Initial Equality Impact Assessment has previously been completed.

9 Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

Implications of all of the following have been considered and, where they are significant (i.e. marked with an asterisk); the implications are detailed within the report itself.

Business Continuity Planning	*	Legal	*
Capacity		Member Involvement	
Civil Contingencies Act		National Framework	*
Efficiency Savings	*	Operational Assurance	*
Environmental		Retained	
Financial	*	Risk and Insurance	*
Fire Control/Fire Link	*	Staff	*
Information Communications and Technology		Strategic Planning	*
Freedom of Information / Data Protection / Environmental Information		West Midlands Regional Management Board	
Integrated Risk Management Planning		Equality Impact Assessment	*