

### **Fire & Resilience Programme**

- This is the second information bulletin from the Fire and Resilience Programme
- Please send feedback on the content and relevance of this Bulletin to:  
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### **Firelink**

#### **Supplier Performance**

- Airwave have introduced measures to improve the standard of project management, documentation and forecasting over the past few months, including:
  - New senior management posts: John Lewis and Dave Richardson, supported by an extended team of Regional Relationship Managers.
  - Significant extra team resources
  - Appointing an independent Quality Assurance organisation

#### **Firelink rollout**

- Installation of Firelink radios has begun in 8 of the 9 English regions. The process is improving as the rollout progresses.
- The Principal User Group has discussed the draft amended Airwave rollout schedule and the final version is close to completion
- The booking system for Firelink training courses is in use. Training courses have begun and have been positively received by the participants.

#### **Interim Solutions**

- The Firelink Interim Solutions Task Force is visiting fire and rescue services across England to present the teams findings. The final visits, to West Midlands and North West will be completed in November.
- Following the meetings earlier in the year, where the FRS expressed their concerns on the core interim solution, the presentation covers capacity and resilience issues and potential upgrades to the solution that will satisfy individual FRS requirements.
- The project has committed to the provision and funding of the additional Airwave network feature - audio interrupt - which will give control operators priority in their talkgroups.

#### **Policy Decisions**

- Project Guidance Notes will be delivered in the next month on:
  - Officers Cars' aerial requirements
  - Pump Bay Voice Terminals : specification and funding
  - Cab tilting

### **FiReControl**

#### **RCC Accommodation**

- The new London Regional Control Centre (RCC) will be located at Merton Road Industrial Estate, Morden, in the London Borough of Merton.
- The South West RCC reached practical completion on 15th August. CLG have taken on the lease.

#### **Infrastructure Service (IS)**

- Discussion with EADS is focusing on data capture and migration and mobile data terminals. The first installation of computers and printers is being trialled in some FRS's in October.

#### **Communications and Stakeholder Engagement**

- CLG have received over 30 invitations to visit regions, to discuss and provide updates on FiReControl.
- The first regional event took place on 19 September in the North East. It focused on the business case and was attended by over 30 members, senior officers and others.

#### **RCC Companies and Director Appointments**

- Five RCC companies have now been established. The South West RCC Company was

incorporated on 11<sup>th</sup> September and has held its first formal meeting.

- The East Midlands Region hosted a successful event for elected members and officers on 6<sup>th</sup> September, to share their experiences in becoming an established and effective Company with other regions.
- Julie Burnett was appointed as the South West RCC Director in early September. She joins from Somerset County Council where she held a head of service post.
- Kevin Robson took up his post as the RCC Director for the North East on the 1<sup>st</sup> August. Kevin was a senior officer with Cleveland Police before working for the British Association of Public Safety Communications Officers (BAPCO)
- A further round of recruitment has commenced for RCCDs in East of England, West Midlands and South East.

#### **HR Guidance Documents**

- The HR Working Group will circulate draft guidance documents to the FiReControl Sounding Board for comment and review, before finalising them for issue.
- Decisions will rest with the new RCC Companies and all consultation will be undertaken locally.

#### **Cost Apportionment**

- The cost apportionment paper, setting out the principles for sharing FiReControl costs between the Regions, will be issued for consultation during November. Treasurers will be able to comment on this paper in draft form, before the formal consultation process commences.

#### **Resource Planning**

- The timescale for completion of Resource Planning by the regions has been extended to 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

### **New Dimension**

#### **Rollout**

##### **Technical Rescue (USAR)**

- The bulk of the USAR modules have now been delivered, final deliveries to roll out by the end of November 2007.

##### **Mass Decontamination**

- All of the vehicles and most of the equipment for MD has been delivered
- The entire capability should be fully operational by March 08.

##### **Command & Control**

- Nine enhanced command support teams and vehicles are expected to be delivered by the end of 2007. Full operational readiness is expected by April 2008.

##### **Long Term Capability Management**

- Work continues on the procurement of the Long Term Support and Maintenance contracts and the transition of ND capability to new owners – the local fire and rescue authorities.
- Competitive Dialogue procurement process for a maintenance and repair contract is now in 2nd phase. To allow sufficient time for stakeholder consultation the ITT will be issued to the 4 potential suppliers in March 2008, with a view to contract announcement in July 2008.
- The completion of the transfer of ND assets to FRS remains programmed for 1 April 2008.
- Funding to maintain New Dimension assets and people to consistent national standards will be through grant mechanisms for the CSR07 period.

##### **Training**

- Initial and maintenance of skills training is continuing at national and local level.



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