



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Policy and Strategy Committee

JOINT ICT PROVISION

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 10 September 2010

Purpose of Report:

To update Members of the Policy and Strategy Committee on a current project by Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire to implement a joint ICT provision.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services each provide their own ICT services using staff and resources from within their own respective organisations. These services, and the resources and technologies used to provide them are broadly similar, although some variations do exist.
- 1.2 Against a backdrop of public sector budget reductions, and with all three Fire and Rescue Services experiencing some difficulties in developing new and maintaining existing ICT services, the three Chief Fire Officers (CFOs) have agreed and commissioned a project to deliver a joint ICT provision serving the three Fire and Rescue Services.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Through the provisions of the East Midlands Regional Management Board (EMRMB), the three Fire and Rescue Authorities within the region have been working together to provide a single system for the management of finance. This project has been reported through the EMRMB and has produced significant economies in the procurement of the system itself and its implementation.
- 2.2 Against this successful backdrop and looking at the ICT challenges facing the Fire and Rescue Services moving forward, the CFOs of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire agreed to look at the overall ICT provision to establish what economies of scale, if any, could be made.
- 2.3 Sponsored by the three CFOs, a Project Lead (ACO Finance and Resources Nottinghamshire) and a Project Manager (ICT Manager Leicestershire) were tasked with looking at what options were available in relation to ICT.
- 2.4 It was quickly established that by conjoining the three ICT departments and by aligning the individual Fire and Rescue Service requirements, the resultant supply and demand equation will be more balanced and a more effective and resilient service delivery could be achieved across all three Fire and Rescue Services. It is further expected that a conjoined ICT department will eventually cost less to run than the existing three operations.
- 2.5 As a consequence, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the three CFOs with a view to working towards a regional system with an implementation date of 01 March 2011. The project deliverables, at present, are attached at Appendix A of this report. A full project initiation document is in the process of being developed, and should be delivered around mid-October.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 It is expected that a conjoined ICT department will cost less to run than the existing three separate entities, although many of the savings will take time to be delivered. Savings in development, licensing costs, future staffing models and software packages will all present potential returns. Service level agreements around budgeting and cost sharing will need to be agreed.
- 3.2 There may be a short term initial investment requirement to create the single provision due to some disparities around application systems products, although as these decrease, costs will reduce.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

All ICT staff and the representative bodies are involved and being consulted regarding this project. Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire staff have an away day on 9 September 2010 to address many of the issues within the project and discuss any employee concerns.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial impact assessment has identified no specific or significant equalities issues arising from this report.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

As with the wider public sector, the Fire and Rescue Services of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire are likely to face shortages in budget provision at a time when the ICT infrastructures are requiring development if the Services are to meet the needs of the future. By working together towards a single provision, the Services should ultimately reduce existing costs and hopefully extract reductions in procurement moving forward.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Policy and Strategy Committee note the current work being undertaken and endorse the project to move towards a single ICT provision for Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Project Deliverables and/or Desired Outcomes

- 1) A joint ICT provision serving the three FRS's. ICT team members will be conversant with and be able to support and deliver infrastructure and application system services, commensurate with their role, in all three FRS.
- 2) The joint ICT provision may be located at a single or, more likely, at multiple sites.
- 3) There will be a single management structure for the ICT provision and clear career progression opportunities within a single structure.
- 4) A single set of ICT policies, procedures and standards will be created and implemented across all three FRS's.
- 5) The ICT infrastructures of the FRS's will be merged.
- 6) The way in which each FRS contributes to the costs of the joint ICT provision will be agreed.
- 7) Service Level Agreements will be drawn up and agreed between ICT and its internal customers.
- 8) The joint provision will costs less to run annually than the three existing, separate provisions
- 9) There **may be** initial investment needed to create the single ICT provision the amount of which is to be determined.
- 10) A method of budgeting and cost sharing for the three FRS's will be developed and agreed for the ICT provision.