



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

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

# **TRI-SERVICE AND REPLACEMENT MOBILISING SYSTEM UPDATE**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

**Date:** 28 April 2023

**Purpose of Report:**

To update Members on the future of the Tri-Service approach to mobilising

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Members note:

- The intention of Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service to withdraw from the Tri-Service arrangements for Fire Control;
- The update on progress against the replacement mobilisation system project;
- The appointment of a temporary, additional strategic manager to oversee related workstreams.

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

**Name :** Damien West  
Assistant Chief Fire Officer

**Tel :** 0115 967 0880

**Email :** [damien.west@notts-fire.gov.uk](mailto:damien.west@notts-fire.gov.uk)

**Media Enquiries Contact :** Corporate Communications Team  
0115 967 0880 [corporatecomms@notts-fire.gov.uk](mailto:corporatecomms@notts-fire.gov.uk)

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 In 2015, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Services formally joined a Tri-Service arrangement for the procurement and discharge of a fire control function across the three counties.
- 1.2 In 2019, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Services combined their control rooms in a Joint Control project, with a single control room located at the Ascot Drive fire station in Derbyshire.
- 1.3 In 2021, the Tri-Service agreed to initiate a 'replacement mobilisation system' (RMS) project to look at the replacement of the current mobilising system across the three Services, and two control rooms.

## **2. REPORT**

### **TRI-SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS**

- 2.1 On 20 March 2023, the Chief Fire Officer received formal notification from Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) of their intention to withdraw from the Tri-Service arrangements for fire control and therefore, the joint procurement of a replacement mobilising system.
- 2.2 The letter from the Leicestershire Chief Fire Officer details the intent of LFRS to remain part of the current mobilising arrangements until October 2024 when the current contract with the mobilising provider is scheduled to end.
- 2.3 The letter also re-affirms the Service's commitment to collaborative ways of working and continuing the benefits that have been forged over the last decade between all three Services.

### **REPLACEMENT MOBILISATION SYSTEM UPDATE**

- 2.4 The RMS project continues to progress towards a position of issuing a formal tender process with an aim of achieving this in May 2023. Workstreams are currently progressing in relation to all aspects of building a comprehensive understanding of requirements ahead of issuing this formal tender.
- 2.5 The withdrawal of LFRS has presented some challenges, but also some areas of simplification for the project. One area, in relation to the additional budgetary costs associated with the procurement of a new mobilising system, and the impact of this being across two Services rather than three, is yet to be fully understood. Further clarity on this will be known once initial responses are received to the tendering process.
- 2.6 The draw on capacity that the RMS project has presented within the Service has been highlighted and addressed by the Strategic Leadership Team. An additional earmarked reserve of £300k has been allocated to address

additional internal demands and required capacity to support the delivery of this statutory function.

- 2.7 Additionally, the increased risk presented to both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services led to the recommendation to appoint a temporary, additional strategic manager to oversee the RMS project, the implications of the withdrawal of LFRS, and the ongoing management of the current mobilising system provider.
- 2.8 This post was advertised across both Services and following a process led by both Chief Fire Officers, at the agreement of both Chairs of Fire Authorities, Michael Sharman from Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service was appointed for an initial six-month period to work across both Services, in the jointly funded post.
- 2.9 This new post will provide oversight and leadership across the wider workstreams, reporting to both Chief Fire Officers and ensuring a collaborative and joined-up approach to assist in mitigating the current risks which have been identified.
- 2.10 It is proposed that further reports will be presented to Members as the RMS project progresses throughout the 2023/24 year.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications currently arising from this report. The RMS project is currently budgeted in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Service Capital Programme.

### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no human resources or learning and development implications arising from this report.

### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because of the nature of this report.

### **6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Authority has a statutory responsibility under the Fire and Rescue Services Act, 2004, to receive emergency calls and mobilise appropriate resources to attend emergencies.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The corporate risk register currently identifies 'mobilising' as a 'very high' risk for the Service in relation to the current position of the mobilising supplier, withdrawal of LFRS from Tri-Service and the RMS project. The approach of appointing an additional strategic manager to provide oversight and scrutiny of this work assists in mitigating this risk.

## **9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS**

The collaborative approach of the RMS project and continued Tri-Service working outside of the control function will ensure that the most efficient and effective approach continues to be adopted.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members note:

- 10.1 The intention of Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service to withdraw from the Tri-Service arrangements for Fire Control.
- 10.2 The update on progress against the replacement mobilisation system project.
- 10.3 The appointment of a temporary, additional strategic manager to oversee related workstreams.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)**

None.

Craig Parkin  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**