

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2007**

**1 INTEGRATED FIRECONTROL AND FIRELINK PROJECT PLAN  
AND DELIVERY ASSURANCE REPORTING TOOL (DART)**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT Members note that following receipt of the updated schedules for the implementation of both the Regional Control Centres (RCCs) and the Firelink Project from the Communities and Local Government (CLG) an integrated implementation plan that provides Members with a high level overview of the planned work throughout the three year period has been prepared by the Brigade. A copy of this plan is attached at Appendix A.
- 1.2 THAT Members note that to support Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) CLG has developed and provided a web based communications portal for accessing information for the FiReControl Project called Unicorn, which includes the Delivery Assurance Reporting Tool (DART) that will be used locally, regionally and nationally to report progress of the FiReControl Transition work.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 This report is submitted to inform Members of the recent versions of the FiReControl and Firelink Project schedules following their revision due to the Infrastructure Services (IS) contract award, and the collation of these schedules to produce a high level overview of the tasks to be completed in relation to the planned implementation dates specific to the West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS).
- 2.2 This report also seeks to inform Members that the National FiReControl Project Team has developed a web based portal called Unicorn, which includes a DART that will be used to report progress of the Brigade's FiReControl Transition activity to the National FiReControl Project Team. DART will also enable the Brigade to be provided with a monthly progress report.

### 3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Members may recall that the objective of the National FiReControl Project is to migrate from the existing forty six local Fire Service Control Rooms to nine RCCs. It is intended that all of the RCCs will operate using the best practice that has been found in existing fire controls, employing identical state-of-the-art technology, systems, processes and methods as each other.
- 3.2 Members may also recall that the National Firelink Project was implemented, following the 9/11 events in the United States of America, to replace the ageing communications networks of the UK Fire Services and to provide for a fully integrated, resilient and secure digital radio scheme that would be capable of providing interoperability for Fire and other emergency services.
- 3.3 Following the IS contract award the National FiReControl and Firelink Project Teams have been able to provide further clarity as to national, regional and local position for the planned roll out of FiReControl and Firelink within the nine Regions of England.
- 3.4 The information provided by the National Firelink Team sets out the scheduled dates for the installation of the Firelink Communications equipment within the WMFS Control Room; plus the first and last vehicle installation dates. These dates are detailed within the integrated high level plan overview attached at appendix A.
- 3.5 The National FiReControl Project Team has also provided a schedule of the planned cut over dates for each of the nine regions to the RCC. These dates have also been included in the high level integrated plan.
- 3.6 To support the implementation of the RCCs the National FiReControl Project Team have developed a detailed generic transition plan for the delivery of all transition activities, including the integration of all convergence activities. This generic transition plan will require to be adapted for the WMFS to capture all the activities required for our cut over to the RCC.
- 3.7 The National FiReControl Project Team has also developed a web based portal called Unicorn that will be used to provide effective communication of information about the project. This portal also includes a DART.

3.8 The transition plan for the WMFS currently includes 1400 activities and of these 300 of them form the reportable element upon which the final operational cut over decision to the RCC will be made. These reportable activities have been grouped within the transition plan into a series of key checkpoints and gates through which both the WMFS and CLG must approve and collectively sign off. These validation points are detailed below and contained in Appendix A are as follows:-

- Checkpoint 1: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2007 (Contract signature + 6 months)
- Checkpoint 2: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2008 (Contract signature + 12 months)
- Gate 1: 9<sup>th</sup> August 2008 (Cut over minus 18 months)
- Gate 2: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009 (Cut over minus 12 months)
- Gate 3: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009 (Cut over minus 6 months)
- Gate 4: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 (Cut over minus 3 months)
- Gate 5: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 (Cut over minus 2 weeks)

3.9 The National FiReControl Transition Team will produce tailored monthly progress reports for the WMFS, West Midlands Regional FiReControl Project Board and the National FiReControl Project Team.

#### 4. **TRADE UNION CONSULTATION**

The Fire Brigades' Union (FBU) has been advised of the revised time lines for the cut over to the RCC and of the checkpoint and gate assurance process, including the planned dates.

#### 5. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out as this report is submitted for information only.

#### 6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Funding of the costs for the installation of Firelink communications equipment within the Brigade will be fully met by CLG. However, there will be additional funding implications for the Brigade that specifically relate to enabling works that are required to be completed prior to the commencement of equipment installation. These costs cannot be confirmed until the Individual Detailed Design Specification (IDDS) is received by the Brigade, which CLG has advised will be the week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007.
- 7.2 In relation to the FiReControl element of the joint project CLG will provide the WMFS with New Burdens funding of £425,821 to meet the projected transitional activities that were identified by the Brigade during the convergence impact analysis workshops. Should additional resources be necessary to meet the project timescales set out by the National Fire Control Project Team, then the Authority can submit a further bid to CLG for additional New Burdens Funding to be considered.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Regional FiReControl Project Board Files

National Framework Document 2006/08

FRSC 63/2005 - Fire Projects Implementation Funding for 2006-7 and 2007-8, New Burdens.

Executive Committee meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006 – Governance arrangements for Regional Fire Controls – Consultation document response to the DCLG

Executive Committee meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2006 – National FiReControl Project – Impact analysis on Convergence work required to be undertaken by Brigade







FRSC 76-2006 – FiReControl Project Implementation Funding 2007-08

Executive Committee meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2007 – FiReControl and Firelink Project – Update Report

CLG Correspondence to Chairs and Chief Fire Officers – 4th April 2007

F. J. E. SHEEHAN  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

## Appendix A

ID		Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish																								
						2007				2008				2009				2010											
						Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
1		<b>WMFS Firelink High Level Plan</b>	208 days?	Wed 02/05/07	Fri 15/02/08																								
2		<b>Phase A - Infrastructure</b>	<b>71 days?</b>	<b>Fri 06/04/07</b>	<b>Fri 13/07/07</b>																								
6		<b>Pre Installation SAN I/ SAN B</b>	<b>1 day?</b>	<b>Mon 04/06/07</b>	<b>Mon 04/06/07</b>																								
10		<b>Installation of all SAN I/ SAN B</b>	<b>23 days?</b>	<b>Tue 31/07/07</b>	<b>Thu 30/08/07</b>																								
13		<b>Pre Installation (Vehicles)</b>	<b>1 day?</b>	<b>Mon 05/11/07</b>	<b>Mon 05/11/07</b>																								
17		<b>Installation of vehicles</b>	<b>5 days?</b>	<b>Mon 03/12/07</b>	<b>Fri 07/12/07</b>																								
20		<b>Test and Acceptance</b>	30 days?	Mon 05/11/07	Fri 14/12/07																								
21		<b>WMFS Phase A Complete</b>	1 day?	Fri 15/02/08	Fri 15/02/08																								
22		<b>WMFS Phase B start</b>	145 days?	Mon 18/02/08	Fri 05/09/08																								
23																													
24		<b>WMFS FiReControl High Level Plan</b>	751 days?	Mon 30/04/07	Mon 15/03/10																								
25		<b>IS Award of Contract</b>	1 day?	Wed 04/04/07	Wed 04/04/07																								
26		<b>Transition checkpoint 1,</b>	<b>1 day?</b>	<b>Fri 05/10/07</b>	<b>Fri 05/10/07</b>																								
29		<b>Transition checkpoint 2,</b>	<b>1 day?</b>	<b>Tue 08/04/08</b>	<b>Tue 08/04/08</b>																								
32		<b>Transition Gate 1, Assurance Test</b>	<b>1 day?</b>	<b>Tue 09/09/08</b>	<b>Tue 09/09/08</b>																								
35		<b>Transition Gate 2, Assurance Test</b>	<b>1 day?</b>	<b>Wed 11/03/09</b>	<b>Wed 11/03/09</b>																								
38		<b>Transition Gate 3, Assurance Test</b>	<b>1 day?</b>	<b>Fri 11/09/09</b>	<b>Fri 11/09/09</b>																								
40		<b>Transition Gate 4, Assurance Test</b>	<b>1 day?</b>	<b>Mon 14/12/09</b>	<b>Mon 14/12/09</b>																								
42		<b>Transition Gate 5, Assurance Test</b>	<b>116 days?</b>	<b>Mon 21/09/09</b>	<b>Mon 01/03/10</b>																								
45		<b>WMFS Cutover to RCC</b>	1 day?	Mon 15/03/10	Mon 15/03/10																								