



## **AGENDA ITEM: 9**

### **NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE PANEL**

**27 October 2014**

#### **EMERGENCY SERVICE MOBILE COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME**

**Report by Dawn Docx, Deputy Chief Fire Officer**

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 This paper is to inform Members about the Emergency Service Mobile Communication Programme (ESMCP) and the potential risks of this national project involving all the emergency services across the UK.

#### **Background**

- 2 In all three Fire and Rescue Services in Wales, the provision of radio communication, through a nationally procured contract, will end in December 2016. A national replacement project known as the Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme (ESMCP) has been established by Her Majesty's Government and is being led by the Home Office to deliver a replacement service in time for the end of the current contract.

#### **Information**

- 3 The National Issues Committee (NIC) received a report about the ESMCP at its meeting on 14 October 2014. The NIC report concentrated on the timescales for the Welsh Fire and Rescue Services and Members discussed the specific risks to the three Services within Wales.

4 The timescales for this project are listed below:

- Outline Business Case approval April 2014
- OJEU and PQQ issued April 2014
- ITT (Invitation To Tender) issued Summer 2014
- Tender return Autumn 2014
- Tender and Technology Evaluation Winter 2014
- Full Business Case approval Spring 2015
- Contract award Spring 2015
- Mobilisation Spring 2015 to Late 2016
- Service Commencement Late 2016

## **Risks**

- 5 There are concerns that the new system will not deliver acceptable operational capability including coverage and resilience. Members may wish to know that Welsh Government has seconded an official full time to the project and it is being monitored nationally through the Joint Emergency Services Group (JESG) and its associated workstreams.
- 6 This is a UK Government project therefore there is the potential for the timescales not to be met and there might be the need to negotiate a contract extension with the current supplier. This is likely to be more expensive than current costs.
- 7 At the moment some of the costs of the current communication system in Wales are funded by a specific grant from the Welsh Government. This cannot be guaranteed to continue into the future.
- 8 Given these risks it would be prudent to make an annual provision to meet these, as yet unknown, costs.

## **Recommendation**

- 9 That Members note the information provided and agree to the suggestion that funding is put aside into a provision to mitigate the extension of contract and/or transitional costs.