

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT



COMMITTEE	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	23 MARCH 2022
SUBJECT	ICT SAIF CLARIFICATION AND BUSINESS CASES
LEAD OFFICER	TONY VINCENT, HEAD OF BUSINESS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS
LEAD MEMBER	N/A
EXEMPT INFORMATION	NONE
ACTION	FOR NOTE

1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides additional background information and detail against both the mandatory and discretionary spending proposals included in the ICT SAIF approval to spend request as considered at the Fire Authority meeting held on the 15th February 2022.
- 1.2 More detail regarding the mandatory items is contained within the body of this report.
- 1.3 Four business cases and their attendant initial equality impact assessments are presented at appendices A-D in support of the discretionary items.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

That Audit and Governance Committee:

- 2.1 **NOTE** the content of the report, the appended business cases and associated Equality Impact Assessments.

3. **REPORT**

- 3.1 At the Fire Authority Meeting held on the 15th February 2022, Members requested further detail regarding the ICT SAIF submission, specifically in terms of any monetary and non-monetary benefits associated with the four spending categories marked discretionary in the accompanying report.

- 3.2 This report provides the requested additional detail in the form of separate business cases for each discretionary spend item.
- 3.3 In summary, although there are identified benefits associated with each item, their nature makes it extremely difficult to quantify in monetary terms. This is because benefits will manifest in productivity improvements derived from greater use of technology, supported by these foundational projects. Further, the benefits of these infrastructure projects will mostly accrue to organisational units outside of ICT.
- 3.4 Provision of foundational capability by ICT strategic investment leads to innovative and somewhat unpredictable benefits realisation, as differing parts of the organisation will utilise new capabilities in different ways. Therefore no monetary savings derived from introduction of the proposed capabilities have been presented. Non-monetary benefits of the proposed solutions are detailed within each business case attached as appendices A-D.
- 3.5 Items identified as mandatory within the ICT SAIF spending approval proposals were as follows:
- i. Implementation of DCS to replace existing SANH airwave link to TVFCS
 - ii. MDT replacement
 - iii. Fireground Radio replacement
 - iv. Station End replacement
 - v. Project support resource from project management, technical support, and applications develop perspectives
- 3.6 The table below sets out the rationale for each item identified in section 3.5(i)-3.5(v)

Project	Cost	Rationale
DCS implementation	£47k	Includes the RBFRS portion of the Capita costs to migrate the current SANH Airwave direct link to updated technology (DCS). Driven by the withdrawal of support for SANH as a technology. No central government grant exists to cover this cost and so will be split across all active partners in the existing SANH partnership (currently Royal Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire).
MDT Replacement	£141k	Includes the wholesale replacement of aging end of life MDT hardware to devices aligned with out Thames Valley partners but which can use the same software as today. The proposed replacement devices are already certified as ESN ready, significantly de-risking RBFRS' ESN transition activities.

Fireground radio replacement	£136k	Includes the replacement of aging and inefficient fireground radios for use by crews and officers at incidents. Replacement devices will result in higher fidelity communication between involved parties at incidents. This is part of RBFRRS' response to a number of public enquiries associated with major incidents that cite poor local communications as a significant contributory factor to suboptimal outcomes at this type of incident.
Station end replacement	£67k	Includes the replacement of aging, insecure and failing station end mobilising equipment that automatically carries out key mobilising functions on station, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activating sirens and lighting • Opening appliance bay doors • Updating incident information screens in appliance bay • Printing tip sheet, etc.
Project support resourcing	£292.8k	Includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd party implementation costs (est) of £90k to migrate RBFRRS intranet and website content to a new provider on the expiry of the current contract. • 2 x mid-grade 3 positions to backfill existing resources during the development of digitised services across the organisation, in accordance with HMICFRS feedback on use of technology • 1 x mid-grade 4 technical support resource to backfill existing resources during the rollout of new and enhanced digital services such as Microsoft 365, Digital protection, Network upgrade, Telephone systems refresh etc. • Provision of a 3rd party technical project management resource to coordinate all aspects of implementation of major infrastructure projects and associated digital enhancement activities.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS

- 4.1 Commitment 1 – We will provide advice on how to prevent fires and other emergencies.
- 4.2 Commitment 2 – We will ensure a swift and appropriate response when called to emergencies.
- 4.3 Commitment 3 – We will provide advice, consultation and enforcement in relation to fire safety standards in buildings.
- 4.4 Commitment 4 – We will seek opportunities to contribute to a broader safety, health and wellbeing agenda, whilst delivering our core functions.
- 4.5 Commitment 5 – We will ensure that Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service provides good value for money.
- 4.6 Commitment 6 – We will work with Central Government and key stakeholders in the interests of the people of Royal Berkshire.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None – the ICT SAIF funding approval for 2022-23 was approved at the Fire Authority meeting held on the 15th February 2022 and no change to costs have been identified at this time.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None

7. EQUALITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Initial Equality Impact Assessments have been carried out for each of the attached business cases.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Risks associated with the proposed activities are identified within each attached business case.

9. CONSISTENCY WITH DUTY TO COLLABORATE

- 9.1 DCS replacement will be a collaborative project, with costs spread across participating FRS'.
- 9.2 Some mandatory and discretionary proposals contain elements that either improve harmonisation of services and implemented technology across the Thames Valley, or provide opportunities for joint procurement. Each will be explored at point of initiation.

10. PRINCIPAL CONSULTATION

- 10.1 Conor Byrne, Head of Finance and Procurement
- 10.2 RBFRS Senior Leadership Team

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix A – Mobile Booster Implementation business case and EIA
- 12.2 Appendix B – Computer Peripherals business case and EIA
- 12.3 Appendix C – Mobile telephone deployment expansion business case and EIA
- 12.4 Appendix D – Firewatch development business case and EIA

13. CONTACT DETAILS

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