



PFCC

POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX

Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority

Decision Report

Report reference number: 007-21

Government security classification: Not protectively marked.

Title of report: Payment of ESMCP Funds to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Emergency Services in the East of England Region

Report by: Austin Page (Financial Accountant and Compliance Manager)

Date of report: 20 January 2021 (received 3 March 2021)

Enquiries to: Neil Cross – Chief Financial Officer (S151 Officer)

1. Purpose of the report

To approve the payment of Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) funding totalling £967,118.46 to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority as acting funding custodians of the ESMCP project.

2. Recommendations

The Commissioner is recommended to approve the payment of £967,118.46 ESMCP funding to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority (see Appendix 1).

3. Benefits of the proposal

To allow regional distribution to continue of the ESMCP funding.

4. Background and proposal

The Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) is a cross government project to deliver the new Emergency Services Network and retire Airwave. Funding has been collected by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service from the Home Office and distributed across the region. Karl Edwards (Director of Corporate Services) is the Service's Senior Responsible Owner (SRO), and Matthew Stalker (Portfolio and Programme Manager) is the ESMCP Regional Project Manager for Essex.

The ESMCP includes 107 emergency services and 12 other national organisations, such as the Border Force. It will have over 300,000 users, cover over 538,000km and be used in over 45,000 vehicles. Essex County Fire and Rescue Service intends to transition to the ESN in 2023.

This funding has accumulated from several Section 31 grants since 2015 and contributes towards the cost of ESMCP Programme Managers and other directly attributable expenses. Its governance and dispersion are directed by the East of England Regional Transition Group. Every region has an RTG designed to collaboratively manage the transition from Airwave to ESN. Each regional group has links to the national programme and other regional groups within the 3ES, such as the 7 Forces Police Collaboration Group.

The decision to transfer the custodianship of regional funds is consistent with how the budget has been managed in the past. This budget has always been managed by the Authority that Chairs the Regional Transition Group. Initially, this was chaired by Norfolk and then funds were transferred to Essex when ACFO Matt Furber chaired the group.

Since his retirement, the group has been chaired by Area Manager Jon Anderson from Cambridgeshire, which is why we are now seeking to transfer the funds to them. Essex County Fire and Rescue Service will continue to have access and draw down from this grant once the custodianship has transferred to Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The SROs for each Service have been asked to approve the transition of funds from Essex to Cambridgeshire and the proposal has been supported unanimously.

The balance carried forward as of 31st March 2020 was agreed by the Home Office as £967,118.46.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

Keeping custodianship of the funding was not considered, as the normal practice is to transfer control of the funding to the chair of the Regional Transition Group.

6. Strategic priorities

The balance needs to be transferred to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority to allow Essex County Fire and Rescue Service to continue to claim costs from the funding pool. This will ensure that we can make best use our resources, which is aligned to our priorities within the Fire and Rescue Plan.

7. Operational implications

Operational cashflow implications have been considered in Section 8.

8. Financial implications

The cashflow implications of the transfer have been fully considered. Essex County Fire and Rescue Service has sufficient cash reserves to meet all obligations for the foreseeable future.

This funding is held in the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service's balance sheet within 'Grants Received in Advance', therefore there will be no impact on outturn.

9. Legal implications

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service does not have the legal right to hold this funding. It is obliged to make the transfer to Cambridgeshire.

10. Staffing implications

None directly arising.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

There are no equality and diversity implications.

12. Risks

There are no risks identified.

13. Governance Boards

Not applicable.

14. Background papers

Appendix 1 – Invoice from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.

Decision Process (007-21)

Step 1A - Chief Fire Officer Comments

(The Chief Fire Officer is asked in their capacity as the Head of Paid Service to comment on the proposal.)

.....I agree with the proposals.....

Sign: ...  ...

Date:.....25/2/21.....

Step 1B – Consultation with representative bodies

(The Chief Fire Officer is to set out the consultation that has been undertaken with the representative bodies)

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Step 2 - Statutory Officer Review

The report will be reviewed by the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority’s (“the Commissioner’s”) Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the Commissioner or their Deputy.

Monitoring Officer

Sign:



Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 16 March 2021

Chief Finance Officer

Sign:



Print:Neil Cross.....

Date: .. 25/2/2021

Step 3 - Publication

Is the report for publication? YES

If ‘NO’, please give reasons for non-publication

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.....N/A.....
.....

If the report is not for publication, the Monitoring Officer will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

Step 4 - Redaction

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

- 1 Of Decision Sheet NO
- 2 Of Appendix YES

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

Customer account number, VAT registration number and bank details to be redacted

Date redaction carried out: 17 March 2021.....

If redaction is required, the Chief Finance Officer or the Monitoring Officer are to sign off that redaction has been completed.



Sign:
.....

Print:Neil Cross.....

Date signed: 17 March 2021.....

Step 5 - Decision by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner or Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

I agree the recommendations to this report:



Sign: (PFCC)

Print: Roger Hirst

Date signed: 16 March 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign: (PFCC / DPFCC)