

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 162-22

Classification OFFICIAL

Title of report: Airwave Contract Extension

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Essex Police

Report by: Kelly Shepherd - IT Mobile Communications Manager

Chief Officer: Mark Gilmartin - Director of Kent & Essex Support Services

Date of report: 25th November 2022

Enquiries to: Kelly Shepherd - IT Mobile Communications Manager

1. Executive Summary

In 2019 the Airwave contract for Control Room Services was extended to the Airwave National Shut Down – 31/12/2022 - and the Airwave coverage services to Regional Transition. As the Emergency Services Network (ESN) project faces more delays (possibly to 2030) the contract will need to be extended once again.

This time around all Airwave services will need to be extended to National Shut Down, as Regional Transition no longer exists and the date for Shut Down is unknown. There will be no additional costs to the existing Airwave budget, as this is a continuation of current Airwave services and coverage provision.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner reviews and signs the attached PSRCP Contract Services – Change and Control Note – 175 which will apply until the National Shutdown. The end date is currently unknown.

This will ensure that Essex Police can continue to use Airwave Radio Communication until ESN is delivered.

3. Background to the Proposal

31/12/2019 was the original contract end date for Airwave. When ESN was not delivered, all police forces had to re-sign to either Regional Transition (no date) or the National Shut Down date of 31/12/2022. Essex Police signed all Force Control Room services to 31/12/2022 and the Coverage Services to Regional Transition. For this contract extension, there is no option for Regional Transition and all services must be extended to National Shut Down or ceased.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

This proposal is to extend ALL Airwave contracted services to the Airwave National Shutdown. This date will be when all police forces have transitioned to ESN.

The operational benefits are that officers and staff can continue to use the Airwave radio communications network and associated Control Room services.

5. Options Analysis

There are two options - extend to National Shut Down or cease.

The recommended option is to extend all Airwave Control Room services and coverage provision to National Shut Down.

Ceasing any services will result in a reduction of the county's radio coverage, and a reduction of resilience built into the Control Rooms and the force's disaster recovery capability. It is also highly likely that ceasing any Control Room services will impact on the new Integrated Communications Control System (ICCS) implementation, as the design was built around the current services and infrastructure provided by Airwave.

6. Consultation and Engagement

The options and recommendations listed have been produced after consultation and engagement with Airwave Solutions, Home Office Police Liaison and the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) Project Team.

7. Strategic Links

Extending the Airwave contract will enable continued secure communications until the delivery of ESN. The importance of a force that is skilled, equipped and enabled is noted within the Police and Crime Plan.

8. Police operational implications

Extending the Airwave contract will enable continued secure communications until the delivery of ESN.

9. Financial implications

For 2023/24 the Airwave budget provision is £1,543,998. This is subject to an annual % uplift, which is negotiated by the Home Office on behalf of all police forces. There is 5% allowed for in the MTFS for 2023/24

There are no additional costs or resources required, with the exception of the annual percentage uplift each year, together with any uplift above 5% in 2023/24.

10. Legal implications

The recommendation is to sign the PSRCP Contract Services – Change and Control Note - 175 to enable the continued use of Airwave services. The extension and associated documentation has been reviewed by 7 Force Commercial Services who have confirmed that, in their professional view, there are no clauses / changes within the Change Control Note that would expose Essex Police to additional obligations or liabilities other than the costs as set out clearly in Appendix A of the CCN and the requirement to provide specified notice periods if Essex wished to terminate any of the menu services.

11. Staffing implications

As this is an extension to an existing contract, no additional resources are required.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

There are no additional equality, diversity and inclusion implications associated with extending the current Airwave contract.

13. Risks and Mitigations

The risk refers to the force not proceeding with the recommendation.

Ceasing any services will result in a reduction of the county's radio coverage, and a reduction of resilience built into the Control Rooms and the force's disaster recovery capability. It also is highly likely that ceasing any Control Room services will impact on the new ICCS implementation, as the design was built around the current services and infrastructure provided by Airwave.

14. Governance Boards

The original contract extension in 2019 was previously discussed in detail by the ESMCP Project Manager with key stakeholders, Airwave Solutions, and the Home Office, and was agreed at the ESMCP Board. This subsequent extension and options have been reviewed with Airwave and the Home Office and shared with the ESMCP team.

15. Links to Future Plans

Extending the Airwave contract to National Shut Down will enable the implementation of the new ICCS system in 2023 and the transition to ESN in the future.

16. Background Papers and Appendices

Attached is the PSRCP Contract Services – Change and Control Note -175, for review and signature.

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the PFCC's Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign:



Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 14 December 2022

Chief Finance Officer

Sign:



Print: Janet Perry

Date: 15 December 2022

Publication

Is the report for publication?

YES

NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'None' if applicable)

Subject to redaction – Please see below

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

Redaction

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet?	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Of Appendix?	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

The appendix is marked "Commercial in Confidence" so is not to be published.

Date redaction carried out:

Chief Finance Officer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only

If redaction is required, the Treasurer or Chief Executive is to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign:

Print:

Chief Executive / Chief Finance Officer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

PFCC/~~Deputy~~ PFCC

Date signed: 15 December 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

.....

Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: