

For Information	
Public	
Report to:	Strategic Resources and Performance Meeting
Date of Meeting:	15th July 2019
Report of:	Chief Constable
Report Author:	Superintendent Cooke
E-mail:	ross.cooke@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk
Other Contacts:	Superintendent Winter
Agenda Item:	3

*If Non Public, please state under which category number from the guidance in the space provided.

Emergency Services Network Update

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Police and Crime Commissioner on the national Emergency Services Network (ESN) programme.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner notes the update included with this report.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure that the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Strategic Resources and Performance meeting are fully up-to-date in relation to the latest situation regarding the ESN programme.

4. Summary of Key Points

- 4.1 This report provides updates from the national, regional and local perspectives. Non Standard Services (NSS) sits outside of the scope of this update, however close links are maintained through established regional ESN governance structures in accordance with the approved s.22 ESN Legal Agreement.
- 4.2 The National Programme is nearing the end of its reset phase and preparing to enter the 'Ramp Up' phase, with revised governance and meeting structures. Following public scrutiny via the National Audit Office and Public Accounts Committee, the Home Office have affirmed that ESN remains the right strategic direction as a replacement for Airwave as an emergency services mission critical communications system.
- 4.3 A substantial amount of work is being undertaken nationally to manage and coordinate user engagement, especially involvement in verification and validation of operational capability and functionality as part of a complicated product release management programme, which will see increased activity and engagement with the user representatives.

- 4.4 Through the National Police ESN Coordinator (NPEC) and Police ESN Executive the service now has an increased level of influence commensurate with the police funding contribution. For example, the NPEC chairs a newly formed Operational Assurance Board to ensure that technical capabilities delivered by the programme are operational viable before being deployment in to the live environment.
- 4.5 Under the current 'P50' (i.e. 50% probability) plan, the Home Office estimates transition onto ESN will commence after PRIME availability Q2 2021 followed by Airwave National Shutdown in December 2022 (contingency to June 2023). The national programme is working to address the low confidence levels in these timescales and a revised plan is expected in the autumn. Based on these dates, the current working assumption that East Midlands forces will commence transition activities in Q3 2021 remains valid until further information becomes available. If achieved, this date would afford forces a 12 month lead-in time prior to transition commencement.
- 4.6 The region continues to have representation and influence in to national structures: PCC Stephen Mold represents PCCs on the national Programme Board, CC Skelly represents East Midlands Chiefs at the ESN Chief Constables Reference Group (CCRG), DCC Swann (Regional Senior Responsible Officer) and DCC Haward (National NSS lead) both attend Gold Group and Superintendent Cooke (Regional Programme Director) attends Silver Group and is a member of the Police ESN Executive (NB: Executive expenditure is reimbursed to the region). This ensures we remain sighted on national developments so that we are well placed to be flexible in our approach and management of future demands.
- 4.7 Following approval by DCCs, the regional ESN Technical Review Group (TRG) enables a two-flow of information between the region and national TRG, based on effective engagement with local force subject matter experts. This detailed understanding of complex issues enables the Regional Programme team to continually refine the approach to Level 2 Planning and maximise influence nationally for the benefit of local forces. Nationally, this is coordinated through Police Bronze, Silver and Gold governance, approved by NPCC, in close liaison with national Programme leads.
- 4.8 Regional ESN Delivery Group continues to be attended by representatives for all regional forces, including Nottinghamshire Police, and EMSOU and also acts as an effective two-way interface in to national police structures. Locally, there is growing consensus for closer engagement between local force ESN leads and local agility and mobility programmes in order to ensure ESN is aligned to the wider Information Management & Operational Requirements Coordination Committee (IMORCC) technology projects being delivered locally. The regional team have produced a template to serve as an illustrative example of considerations to help inform local ESN device strategies aligned to force digital roadmaps for the NPCC Policing Vision 2025. Force representatives have expressed strong support for a bespoke regional ESN stakeholder event in the autumn to improve understanding of operational requirements and increase confidence levels, particularly amongst front line users.

- 4.9 The region has undertaken a series of local force ESN Capability Readiness Health Checks as part of a national piece of work to assess levels of preparedness and develop understanding of operational requirements for ESN and force appetite for participation in technical verification, operational validation and evaluations.
- 4.10 Nottinghamshire Police have reaffirmed that based on their current digital roadmap, their strategic intention for ESN remains as 'SILVER' defined as, *'Implementation of Critical Communications with identified Convergence / Exploitation Plans to focus post successful transition to ESN-Prime'*. This will also inform deployment transition plans as part of the national Integrated Implementation Plan and align with work to map competing demands facing forces in terms of the wider IMORCC digital landscape and other transformational projects. This is being supported by on-going regional activity to map interoperability and interdependencies across forces, regions, 3 Emergency Services (3ES) and non-3ES organisations.
- 4.11 The regional programme has a positive collaborative relationship with regional ESN Fire counterparts working together on our approach to coverage assurance. This approach seeks to minimise duplication and ensure that public money is spent wisely in assuring this vital element of programme delivery, pending an agreed national coverage methodology and plan. [NB: EMAS are part of the national Ambulance Replacement Programme (ARP)].
- 4.12 Nottinghamshire Police are represented in all aspects of the regional ESN structure and has recently established a local ESN Working Group to coordinate local mobilisation activities in preparation for transition on to ESN.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 5.1 The Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) full business case has been presented to the Major Project Review Group (MPRG) and is understood to have now been approved by the Home Office. Contractual Change Approval Notices (CAN) have been finalised with Motorola, a significant milestone.
- 5.2 National Police Chief's Council has raised concerns around the costs of the programme and plans for contingency arrangements. It is evident that unless forces plan and prepare for convergence of devices and IT eco-systems, they are likely to incur significantly inflated costs in comparison to Airwave. It is vital that ESN is not treated as a 'like-for-like' replacement. The National ESN Finance Reference Group (FRG) has been provided with indicative figures regarding the financial exposure to Police Forces in England and Wales. The East Midlands region is represented on the ESN FRG by Jon Peatling (EMSOU) to ensure that local Finance Directors are kept abreast of financial developments.

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 The regional Programme team has reduced resource levels to a core minimum in order to offset delay costs and ensure maximum value for money. Programme Board and force Chief Finance Officers have approved the carry-over of underspend to mitigate future delay costs.

- 6.2 The team comprises a Programme Director, Programme Manager, Programme Support Officer, Technical Lead, Operational Business Continuity Manager, and two work stream leads. Collectively, they cover critical thematic activities e.g. planning, risks, issues, governance, devices, applications, vehicles, service management, coverage (i.e. all 10+ sub-categories of coverage), control room systems, etc. The team draws on expertise of subject matter experts on an ad-hoc 'pay as you go' basis for subjects such as security, training and fleet mapping.
- 6.3 Further work is ongoing to inform a more detailed future resource plan for regional and local resources based on current working assumptions.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 Risks and issues continue to be managed under approved methodology and in accordance with regional governance, aligned to national processes. There is a robust structure in place, including scrutiny via a regular Regional ESN Risk Board and close monitoring of local risk registers by local ESN Project Managers.

9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

- 9.1 There is a strong link to the Police and Crime Plan priority of 'transforming services and delivering quality policing' and the PEEL Efficiency recommendation for all forces to have an ambitious digital roadmap by September 2018.

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 10.1 There are no changes in legislation or other legal considerations related to this report.

11. Details of outcome of consultation

- 11.1 There has been no additional consultation in relation to this update report.

12. Appendices

- 12.1 There are no appendices attached to this report.