

WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY	FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE	18 July 2008	ITEM No
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REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF FIRE SAFETY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

PURPOSE OF REPORT: TO REQUEST CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF AN INCIDENT RECORDING SYSTEM

RECOMMENDATIONS: THAT MEMBERS APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AS OUTLINED IN THE REPORT TO BE FUNDED BY VIREMENT FROM THE SCHEME FOR THE EXTENSION TO LEEDS FIRE STATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT DETAILS

EXEMPTION CATEGORY:

ACCESS CONTACT OFFICER: ACO D.C McIntosh 01274 655705
MRS G. Cogan 01274 655802

BACKGROUND PAPERS: NIL

ATTACHED INFORMATION:

1 Background

1.1 As of April 2009, all Fire Authorities will be required to supply information on all incidents to the National Incident Recording System. The information can be supplied in two ways.

1. Complete incidents using the National online form.
2. Use a local system and upload incidents to the National database.

1.2 WYFRS was part of the initial National pilot held in 2007 and were due to go live in March 2008 using the National online forms but this has now been delayed to March 2009 due to concerns over the information gathered within the forms.

The main reasons for our delay in implementation are:

- anomalies with the IRS itself which will require CLG support to resolve,
- those that will require changes to procedures and data entry internally, eg data base compatibility, and
- those which are training issues for those who will enter incident details on to the system.

1.3 The National forms would not collect the range of data required by WYFRS to maintain current initiatives and implement new ones. Some examples include:

- Incident location is split into addressable and non addressable (where post cannot be delivered) meaning a garden shed or car on drive would not be classed as addressable. This does not allow for identification of repeat incidents to support arson reduction activity.
- The categories for attacks on fire fighters does not allow for the recording of racial abuse.
- Inadequate validation allows for a fire on the 3rd floor of a single storey building.

In order to do this we would need to implement a separate system for the additional information causing Operations to key into two separate systems for many incidents. All of the above concerns and the need to maintain control of our data have led to the decision to implement option 2 from paragraph 1.1.

1.4 A paper was taken to Management Board on 17th March detailing the options available for implementing a local system as:

1. Build an in house system
2. Buy an off the shelf package
3. Form a partnership with another FRS

Option 1 would require additional capacity and ongoing resourcing costs.

Forming a partnership with another FRS was not viable due to differences in systems and solutions already in progress.

The recommendation was therefore to purchase a 3rd party software package that would provide the functionality WYFRS required whilst still meeting the requirements of CLG.

2 Information

- 2.1 Several potential suppliers and other FRSs have been approached to establish what is available and what is being used elsewhere.
- 2.2 Some FRSs still use a paper based FDR1 and will be using the National system as it will offer them greater functionality than they currently have. As stated in paragraph 1.3, the use of the National form would result in a loss of functionality for WYFRS, with a reduction in the volume and granularity of data captured.
- 2.3 A product has been identified which is to be implemented at several FRSs including South Yorkshire and Manchester who have the Motorola Procad mobilising system used at West Yorkshire. It would provide the functionality to collect additional information outside the National requirements and provide more up to date information to Operations.

The software package will be fully compliant with the National requirements but offer additional functionality.

- Over 300 additional questions already added by other FRSs.
- Ability to add questions specific to WYFRS.
- Interface to existing WYFRS technology to accurately locate incidents and tag with National Land and Property Gazetteer Unique Property Number where appropriate.
- Ability to add additional answers to National questions and map back to the National answers.
- Interface with the mobilising system to enable pre-population of the forms with relevant information.
- Ability to upload incidents to the National database individually or in batches by date range or status.
- Provide full audit history.

- 2.4 In line with procurement procedures, a tender document has been placed with Catalist via OGC Buying Solutions with a closing date of 18/07/2008.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 As detailed in paragraph 2.5 the estimated capital cost of this system is £68,000 for which there is currently no scheme in the approved capital plan. However there is currently a scheme for an extension at Leeds fire station which is no longer required from which it is proposed to vire the funding.
- 3.2 The revenue costs in the form of capital financing charges will be £1,600 in the current year rising to £15,600 in a full year, provision to fund the capital programme is included within the approved revenue budget.

- 3.3 In addition to capital financing charges there will be additional annual cost of £13,000 for maintenance and licences which will be funded from savings of £15,900 in the annual support of the existing sophtlogic system which will be no longer required.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 In using our own Incident Recording System, we can resolve many issues found in the National system including those relating to data validation and granularity of data captured. It will enable us to retain control of our data, what information is captured and allow access to it whenever required.
- 4.2 In purchasing an off the shelf package from a company with a proven track record in this area, we will benefit from support both during and post implementation.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members agree the virement of £68,000 to purchase an incident recording system as detailed in the report.