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This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular informs Fire and Rescue Authorities and senior staff in the Fire and Rescue Service of progress with the Fire and Resilience Programme.		

Fire and Resilience Programme Highlights – November/December 2009

Issued by:

Bess Teeger

FRS Development Division

Addressed to:

**The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
London Fire Commissioner
The Chief Fire Officer**

Please forward to:

Summary

This continues the series of 'highlights' notes to inform Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) and senior staff in the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) of progress with the Programme. The 'highlights' circular will now be published every two months.

For further information, contact:

Bess Teeger Fire and Resilience Directorate Department for Communities and Local Government Zone 3/B1 Eland House Bressenden Place London, SW1E 5DU	Direct line	0303 444 2942
	E-mail	bess.teeger@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Website [**www.communities.gov.uk**](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

1.0 New Dimension

NEW DIMENSION TRANSFER OF ASSETS

- 1.1 Fire and Rescue Authorities will be aware of FSC 52/2009 issued in September 2009, whereby CLG is seeking sign-up by authorities to the transfer of ownership of New Dimension assets and has asked that FRAs respond by the end of December 2009. Earlier this month the Department issued the final Transfer Agreements to each individual Fire Authority, along with the specific financial details of the assets to be transferred.
- 1.2 In addition, the Department has responded to an open letter from CFOA President, John Bonney, regarding particular points on the transfer. A copy of the response was sent to Chief Fire Officers on 16 December.
- 1.3 The Department looks forward to receiving your response shortly if your authority is one of those which has not yet responded. A copy of the circular on New Dimension asset transfer can be found at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/fsc592009>

NEW DIMENSION RECHARGING POLICY

- 1.4 As part of the long term strategy for New Dimension, CLG through Firebuy Ltd, has procured a 16-year maintenance contract for New Dimension equipment and vehicles. Circular 72/2009, issued at the end of November 2009, provides information about the implementation of a recharging process on Fire and Rescue Authorities for those avoidable costs from the maintenance contract.
- 1.5 Recharging will start from 1 February 2010, and covers costs over and above normal wear and tear, and which are due to the activities of the fire service. In the first 12 months of the contract (Oct 08 – Sept 09), such costs amounted to some £118k across England, all paid by CLG, and the distribution of those costs across each FRA are provided within FSC 72/2009, to give FRAs some indication of the levels of costs they will have to pay from February onwards. Because these are avoidable costs, FRAs should be able to manage and reduce them, as with the rest of the vehicles they use.
- 1.6 A copy of the Circular can be found at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/fsc722009>

2.0 Firelink

- 2.1 Operational rollout in England is approaching completion. Rollout in London is well underway but is not due to complete until Easter, owing to the large number of vehicles involved. Scottish rollout continues apace and we hope to start operational rollout in Wales early in the new year, with completion in mid year.
- 2.2 Phase C is also underway in England. Several RCC communications interfaces (SAN Hs) have been delivered and are nearing acceptance, and we have just ordered the next one, for the SE Regional Control Centre.

- 2.3 In-service arrangements for both Firelink support and a joint Firelink/FiReControl Single Point of Contact (SPOC) are being taken forward by CLG Programme staff.

3.0 FiReControl

APPOINTMENT OF INTERGRAPH AS A SUB-CONTRACTOR AND REPLACEMENT FOR ERICSSON LTD

- 3.1 EADS Defence and Security has now advised the FiReControl project that they have awarded a contract to Intergraph for the mobilising system – a key part of the FiReControl solution. At the same time EADS has informed CLG of their intent to terminate their existing contract with Ericsson for this part of the solution.
- 3.2 Intergraph's product is well established throughout the world, particularly in public safety environments. We believe the Intergraph product – known as I/CAD (Intergraph computer-aided dispatch system) – reduces risks to delivery of the project because:
- Many of the components required for FiReControl already exist within the product and work now, reducing the integration risks for EADS
 - I/CAD has been demonstrated to scale, perform and failover under FiReControl peak load conditions
 - I/CAD already operates on the database chosen for FiReControl
 - I/CAD is part of Intergraph's core business and provides a sound platform for future enhancements
- 3.3 The FiReControl project will ensure that the solution delivered for 'go live' will meet the operational needs of FRSs and will continue to work closely with representatives from FRSs to achieve this.

PARLIAMENTARY CLG SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY

- 3.4 On 17 November, the Communities and Local Government Select Committee announced a brief inquiry into the FiReControl Project.
- 3.5 The role of Select Committees is to scrutinise the work of Ministers and Government Departments, and many policies and programmes are considered every year. The inquiry into FiReControl is part of their regular business of scrutinising CLG.
- 3.6 The terms of reference for the inquiry are:
- "FiReControl is part of the Fire and Resilience Programme, which is reforming the Fire and Rescue Services. FiReControl involves closing the current 46 control centres and replacing them with nine large regional centres.
- The Committee will consider:
- Progress with the project so far

- The reasons for the cost and time overruns which the project has experienced
- What, if any, changes need to be made to the Government's plans for proceeding with the project"

Select Committees can take views and make recommendations on the areas they are examining. It is then for Ministers to consider these. Decisions about the project remain with the Government.

THE FIRECONTROL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 3.7 The Equality Impact Assessment of the FiReControl project was published on 4 December on the CLG website, at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/FiReControlEIA>

NATIONAL LAND AND PROPERTY GAZETTEER (NPLG)

- 3.8 The 2009 NLPG Exemplar Awards were held at the Plaza Hotel, Victoria on 26 November, as part of the NLPG 'Underpinning Transformational Government' Conference. The national FiReControl team sponsored an award for the best integration of NLPG by a fire and rescue service (FRS). Lincolnshire FRS won the award, and Kent FRS was highly commended.

STATION END EQUIPMENT (SEE) SURVEYS

- 3.9 All 1400 surveys that can be, have now been completed. The remaining 33 surveys that were due to be completed under the CLG-funded survey programme have been postponed. Typically, this is because station redevelopment or refurbishing works are either planned or currently being carried out. These remaining sites will be surveyed once these works have been completed.

Bess Teeger

FRS Development Division