Bids for DCLG Transformation Funding for 2015/16

Summary
This report provides details of bids that have been prepared to submit to DCLG in response to their call for bids for Transformation funding 2015/16. One bid proposes a project to introduce the use of data sharing between the LFB control room and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and London Ambulance Service (LAS) control rooms, reducing the need for telephone conversations and improving our response to callers. It will also allow for the London Resilience Team (LRT) to monitor a common operational picture across the capital.

In addition a second syndicated bid between LFB, North West Fire Control and West Midlands / Staffordshire FRS seeks funding to improve control room resilience arrangements.

Recommendations
1. That the bid for transformation funding set out in Appendix 1 be submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government for consideration.

2. That should the bid be successful, officers present a further report to this committee once a full business case and Memorandum of Understanding have been agreed between all parties.

3. That the full business case for the syndicated bid referred to in paragraphs 12-17 be presented to this Committee should that bid be successful.

Introduction/Background
4. DCLG has invited bids from Fire and Rescue Authorities for transformation funding 2015/16, of £30m revenue and £45m capital funding. The bids are required to be submitted to DCLG following sign off by the Chief Finance Officer and Members.

5. The deadline for the submission of bids was 4 June 2014 for individual bids and 17 June 2014 for 'syndicated' bids involving one or more FRA’s. The tight deadlines for development and
submission of bids has meant that it was not possible to bring the proposed submissions to a committee of the Authority prior to submission to DCLG.

6. Members have previously been made aware of both the funds and the proposed bids. The ‘Syndicated Fire Service Bid’ was agreed under the Standing Order 64 process and duly submitted to DCLG. Members asked for the ‘London Control Rooms and Co-ordination Centre Bid’ to go to Committee for final approval. In order to meet the DCLG deadline it was submitted, with the agreement of DCLG, unsigned on the understanding that the bid could not be changed. The bid will be confirmed with DCLG only with the approval of this Committee.

7. The aim of the transformation funds are to support schemes that
   a. Encourage greater collaboration
   b. Improve local accountability
   c. Increase on-call arrangements
   d. Prioritise prevention and protection; and
   e. Promote asset transformation / other efficiencies

8. All projects are required to demonstrate that they will provide value for money, by delivering real savings in future years that are greater than the total of the costs (not just the grant applied for) of the project.

**London Control Rooms and Co-ordination Centre Bid**

9. This bid seeks to achieve two outcomes, firstly it seeks to introduce a system for the electronic transfer of information between the LFB, MPS and LAS control rooms. Currently the MPS and LAS have a data link between their control rooms so that if a call is received in one centre that would require the attendance of the other service the information is transferred automatically into the others mobilising system.

10. In a similar situation between the LFB and one of the other control rooms such information is passed between control rooms verbally over the public telephone system. This is an inefficient way of operating as it causes delays in the transfer of information as it requires operators to be free in both control rooms it also then ties up those operators in a telephone conversation at the very time other members of the public may be calling 999 for assistance. The outcome will be a more efficient 999 service for the public and the more efficient mobilising of resources by all emergency services in the capital.

11. Secondly the bid aims to utilise the fact that incident information will be available in electronic format and make this information available within a London Co-ordination Centre which would compliment the existing command and control facilities that already exist by providing a single source for qualified information which can be jointly assessed by all partners.

12. The London Co-ordination Centre will use the resources that already exist within the London Resilience Team and the LFB Emergency Planning Department, savings will be accrued by more efficient use of the resources within that team.
13. Due to time constraints it has not been possible to put a detailed project plan together although an outline plan is provided in section 3.5 of the bid documentation. While partners have been willing to support the bid it is acknowledged that should the bid be successful detailed scoping work will be required. It is therefore acknowledged that at an early stage of the project a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and detailed project plan will have to be developed and agreed by all partners. At that stage officers intend to bring that MoU and project plan to a suitable committee of the Authority for approval before commencing implementation.

14. Full details of the bid are provided in appendix 1.

**Syndicated Fire Service Bid**

15. This bid seeks to provide an enhanced emergency call handling service during short term and prolonged periods of increased emergency call and mobilising activity. It will also enable an improved, effective and resilient arrangement to operate should it be necessary to evacuate the London control room.

16. The bid aims to integrate the control room systems of the London Fire Brigade, North West Fire Control, which services the brigades of Cumbria, Cheshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester, and West Midlands which is combined with Staffordshire.

17. Enabling data sharing between these control rooms will provide a significant improvement to our resilience arrangements when dealing with temporary or sustained increases in the volume of emergency calls being received.

18. The funding will enable the implementation of data links between the control rooms, using national standards, this will enable partner control rooms to process each others calls and mobilise partner FRS resources.

19. Similar to the first bid it has not been possible to put a detailed project plan together although an outline plan is provided in section 3.8 of the bid documentation. While partners have been willing to support the bid it is acknowledged that should the bid be successful detailed scoping work will be required. It is therefore acknowledged that at an early stage of the project a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and detailed project plan will have to be developed and agreed by all partners. At that stage officers intend to bring that MoU and project plan to a suitable committee of the Authority for approval before commencing implementation.

20. Full details of the bid are provided in appendix 2.

**Head of Legal and Democratic Services comments**

21. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services has no additional comments on this report.

**Director of Finance and Contractual Services comments**

22. The London Control Rooms and Co-ordination Centre bid requests transformation funding of £763k and aims to achieve annual cashable savings to LFEPA of £182k.

23. The Syndicated Fire Service bid requests transformation funding of £2,781k. This could produce cashable savings, for example through reductions in overtime during spate conditions and reduced staff costs when moving between primary and secondary controls.
24. Should the bids be successful a further report for each bid will then be brought to the Strategy Committee setting out the full business cases. If those reports are then approved any savings that can be identified will then be built into the budget process for future years.

**Sustainable Development Implications**
25. There are no sustainable implications arising from this report.

**Staff Side Consultations Undertaken**
26. No staff side consultation has taken place at this time.

**Equalities Implications**
27. There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

---

**List of Appendices to this report:**
1. London Control Rooms and Co-ordination Centre Bid
2. Syndicated Fire Service Bid

---

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**List of background documents**
2. Budget Report March 2014 (FEP 2225)

**Proper officer**  
**Director Finance and Contractual Services**

**Contact officer**  
John Anthony

**Telephone**  
020 8555 1200 x 31571

**Email**  
john.anthony@london-fire.gov.uk