

**Report of the Chief Constable to the Chair and Members
of the Policy & Resources / Corporate Development Panel
22nd July 2009**

**Executive & Presenting Officer: Mrs Ann Hall, Assistant Chief Officer
(Finance & Commissioning)**

Status: For approval

Procurement of Replacement Fire Alarm System for HQ

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To advise Members on the procurement method used for the procurement of a replacement fire alarm system at Police Headquarters.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members approve the procurement method used.

3 Reasons

- 3.1 Over the last 4 months, have been 4 false activations of the fire alarm at Police Headquarters.
- 3.2 Due to the deterioration of the existing HQ fire alarm system (which is approximately 40 years old) advice was taken from the Fire Brigade and the Health and Safety Teams. In addition two reports were commissioned from electrical contractors (neither of whom would be awarded the work subsequently). All the advice was the same, that the Headquarters alarm system be replaced as a matter of urgency. The Force Health & Safety and Commissioning departments therefore recommended that the fire alarm system be replaced as a matter of urgency as the system was now considered a strategic risk and an operational hazard.
- 3.3 Due to the urgent need to replace the fire alarm system, it was agreed by Health & Safety and the Commissioning management team that the timescales for a full tender to replace the current system would not be appropriate.

- 3.4 As there was insufficient time to competitively tender the contract, an exemption to standing orders was raised by Facilities Management with our current electrical contractor (who had previously submitted a quotation for these works). The exemption was agreed and processed under the following business reason – operational emergency.
- 3.5 When raising the exemption, the Procurement Team re-negotiated the original quotation from our current electrical contractor and generated a cashable saving of £25,000.
- 3.6 Work on replacing the fire alarm system commences on 13th July. The Facilities Team is working closely with the Health & Safety to ensure that the new system is replaced with as little disruption to service as possible, and a rolling programme of stakeholder involvement is in place. Interim procedures have been agreed and implemented with the Fire Brigade.

4 Implications

4.1 Financial

The cost of the upgraded system is £110k, and will be fully funded from the Capital Programme. There are no on-going revenue consequences.

4.2 Diversity and Equal Opportunities

There are no diversity or equal opportunities implications arising from this report.

4.3 Human Rights Act

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

4.4 Sustainability

There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

4.5 Risk

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Due to the deterioration of the existing fire alarm system, an exemption to standing orders was raised to expedite the replacement of the system, which had become a strategic risk. The Procurement Team negotiated with our current electrical contractor and achieved cashable savings of £25,000.

Sean Price
Chief Constable