

RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 15 JUNE 2010

AIRWAVE REFRESH, VEHICLE FIT PROGRAMME – INTERIM REPORT

REPORT BY CHIEF CONSTABLE

Introduction

- 1.1 The vehicle element of the Airwave Refresh Programme has been completed, other than for a number of retained vehicles (due for disposal) which is not causing any operational issues.
- 1.2 The fleet review, currently underway (set to report to the Resources Scrutiny Committee in September 2010), may have an impact on the final number of vehicles fitted with either a full fixed radio set or a phone cradle. Adjustments will therefore be made when the size and shape of the operational fleet has been agreed.

Programme Summary

- 2.1 The vehicle element of the original programme required 516 fixed Motorola radio sets to be fitted in frontline patrol vehicles and 196 phone cradles to be fitted in unmarked vehicles by 31 March 2010.
- 2.2 The vehicle fit programme was to have commenced in June 2009, but due to lack of equipment, staff resources, and suitable premises, it did not commence, in earnest, until October 2009.
- 2.3 During April 2010, a further 21 fixed Motorola radios were ordered to meet the demand of the number of operational vehicles in the retained fleet and provide a buffer stock to facilitate the annual vehicle replacement plan.
- 2.4 Despite the delay in commencing some 500 fixed Motorola radio sets have now been fitted, with the remaining to be commissioned and in service by the end of June 2010. Additionally a 180 phone cradles have been fitted leaving 16 to be fitted when changes in the use of vehicles has been confirmed.
- 2.5 Included in the 500 are 36 new vehicles (pre-fitted with Motorola radios and Mobile Data Transmitters) which are currently being delivered. These vehicles will replace vehicles currently fitted with radios, some of which are Nokia and Cleartone sets and therefore will mitigate the number of further refits required.
- 2.6 No operational issues have been caused by this prudent approach to the final stages of the refresh programme, as opposed to fitting every vehicle with a fixed radio or phone shoe, without taking into consideration future operational changes.

Recommended – that the Fleet Review features on the Committee's agenda in October 2010 with an update of the final stages of the Airwave refresh refit.

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