

**HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS FIRE BOARD
22 NOVEMBER 2006**

**IT Partnership Progress Report
Report by Chief Fire Officer**

Agenda Item	10
Report No	FIRE 49/06

Summary

The Fujitsu I.T. partnership, which will provide an I.T. capability to every Retained station, is progressing in accordance with the agreed project plan, and within the agreed financial framework.

Background.

The IT Partnership with Fujitsu will provide an IT network for the Service's 95 Retained stations, providing improved communications with Service managers as well as enhanced access to learning and development material. As part of the project, development of a new Corporate Intranet is also being undertaken.

Project Plan

The project has been split into three distinct stages with a total budgeted capital cost of £401,660 (£263,911 relating to 2005/6 and £137,749 relating to 2006/7) and an ongoing annual revenue cost of £82,860.

Stage 1 – Wide Area Network and Infrastructure Design. Intranet Design. Project plan including budgets for Stage 2- pilot and stage 3 deployment to remaining sites.

Stage 2 - Pilot, with a limited audience of 4 stations for assessment.

Stage 3 - Implementation and rollout to the remainder of the Service's Retained stations. This will include the provision of a Service Desk for supporting the network.

Progress

The project is currently on target and expected to complete both in time and on budget.

Stage 1 - Design and infrastructure installation complete. Completed on 19th August 2006 and on budget.

Stage 2 – Intranet now live and deployed to 4 pilot sites. Business and technical evaluation has been undertaken. In light of the findings of the evaluation, enhancements to the system components have been made and deployed. Stage was concluded on 6th November within agreed budgets.

Stage 3 – Deployment proposals, including costs and training plan have now been reviewed and agreed. Forecast to be complete by 31st March 2007 and within agreed budget.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to note the contents of this report.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian A. Murray". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

**BRIAN A MURRAY
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

Date: 2 November 2006

