

# NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

28 August 2009

Agenda Item	
Report No	

## The National Command and Control System

### Report by the Chief Constable

#### **SUMMARY**

This Report informs the Board of the position on procurement of a National Command and Control System.

#### **Background**

In 2004 Northern Constabulary signed a 10 year contract with Intergraph Public Safety for use of the Intergraph/Computer Aided Dispatch (I/CAD) Command and Control system, to commence in 2005. This was the first Command and Control system for the Force and was required in order to support the introduction of the Airwave communications system. ICAD also provided a web based version which was deemed essential to accommodate the network and structure of the Force. This was based on the Force call handling strategy which was and remains a dispersed model, with members of the public able to directly access a Police Station in their own area. Our call handling strategy is unique in Scotland and allows for local management of incidents and resources.

#### **Current Developments**

Following a requirement by Lothian and Borders Police to replace their Command and Control system, ACPOS agreed as part of their national ICT Convergence Strategy to move towards a single Scottish National Command and Control System. As part of our commitment to working together with other Forces, Northern Constabulary has agreed in principle to adopt the new system once reassurance is provided in regard to its dispersed call handling capabilities. The National Command and Control Project Team led by Lothian and Borders Police issued an Invitation to Tender based on all eight Forces' user requirements. Only two tenders were received and these have recently been evaluated. A final decision is awaited. Intergraph did not submit a tender for the National Command and Control System.

Currently the implementation of National Command and Control is scheduled to begin in May 2010 and roll out to all Forces, with Northern Constabulary being the last, in September 2011.

There will be a significant amount of work involved in preparation for this change, including staff training, all of which will be scoped by the National Project Team and locally by Northern Constabulary. Indications from the ACPOS Business Change Programme Board are that all implementation costs associated with the National Command and Control system will be met from central funding.

Northern Constabulary is currently tied to a ten year contract with Intergraph which is due to expire in 2015. Although the timelines given for implementing the National Command and Control System across Scotland may be extended, Northern Constabulary will require to resolve any existing contractual matters with Intergraph.

Work is being undertaken through our Finance and Asset Management Unit to quantify potential costs in this regard.

The Force Project Team and Corporate Services will continue to engage with the National Project Team to scope out the implementation requirements which will maximise the benefits of the preferred Command & Control system for the Force within our agreed call handling strategy. This will ensure that the current high service levels to the communities of the Highlands and Islands and efficiency benefits of command and control are maintained, if not enhanced.

Governance for the National Project continues through the ACPOS Business Change Programme Board, at which the Deputy Chief Constable represents the Force. The Northern Joint Police Board will be updated with any significant developments.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Board is requested to note the present position.

**I Latimer**  
**Chief Constable**  
**3 August 2009**