



# SUSSEX CONTROL CENTRE

## News Update - Issue Two, August 2012

Welcome to the second issue of the joint East and West Sussex Fire & Rescue Services newsletter on progress towards the Sussex Control Centre (SCC).

These newsletters aim to provide both fire & rescue services with news and developments on this important project.

### Location confirmed

A great deal of work has taken place (and is continuing at a pace) since the first issue of this newsletter was published, including confirmation of Haywards Heath Fire Station as the location for the new SCC.

The decision was formally announced on June 7th, when it was also confirmed that East Sussex Fire Authority will become the lead employer for the Sussex Control Centre. A joint Officer-led Board will be created to manage the SCC, reporting directly to both the ESFRS Corporate Management Team and the WSFRS Principal Leadership Team.







Speaking after the decision was announced, Councillor John Livings, the East Sussex Fire Authority Chairman, said:

“This has been an uncertain time for the control staff and we appreciate their continued professionalism. We believe these decisions mark a key milestone at which both Services can now work together, with a confirmed location and lead employer, to make the Sussex Control Centre a successful reality next year.”

Christine Field, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Public Protection, said:

“The town is geographically central to both East and West Sussex and its location creates equal opportunity for staff in the two existing control rooms to consider relocating to the Sussex Control Centre. This will help to retain the valuable skills and control experience in both Services and, in addition, maintain local knowledge from across both counties – something that was important to the public during consultation.”

### **Principal Officer Lead**

Another key development has been the appointment of Cheryl Rolph (ACO, ESFRS) as the Principal Officer Lead for the project.

Cheryl started her new role on May 1st after the Joint Programme Board agreed that a Principal Officer should be solely dedicated to the SCC project in order to provide the clear strategic leadership and key decision-making in the full time capacity that will be necessary to ensure the project’s successful delivery.

Having worked in control for over 17 years, Cheryl has an extensive Fire Control background as well as project management and HR experience — key attributes needed in supporting a successful move to the SCC.

Cheryl said: “I am delighted to be leading on this important project and hope that I can use my background, as well as my overall experience within the FRS, to ensure this project is a success. There is an awful lot to do in the next 13 months and I am conscious that for everyone in control change is now an inevitable outcome.

“The project team and I are committed to working with control staff and trade unions whenever we can. I hope that control put forward names for the user groups so that they can actively contribute to the project.”

Cheryl has committed to writing a fortnightly blog as work on the SCC progresses, so make sure you visit her blog on the intranet for the latest updates!

Cheryl is backed by the same Project Team, comprised of staff from both Services, to provide support, advice and assistance across a variety of related workstreams:

- Technical & Support System Functions
- People
- Ways of Working
- Accommodation/Premises
- Training & Development

In each newsletter we'll be providing updates from each of these workstreams.

### **Technical & Support System Functions**

The MOBS & Comms system is in the process of proceeding for full procurement, with restricted procedures limiting the process to a maximum of five suppliers.

Work is currently being undertaken on a user/technical specification by representatives from each FRS and tenders will then be invited from selected suppliers. The current timescale for issuing the contract is November 2012.

### **People**

The biggest update in this area, of course, is that ESFA will become the lead employer for all of the SCC staff. WSFRS control staff, and those who are in roles which are impacted, will TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment)) transfer into ESFRS and become ESFA employees.

There is a considerable amount of work currently being undertaken, including the date on which the TUPE transfer will take place. People and HR is, quite understandably, the most sensitive workstream. When more detailed information is available we will endeavour to update staff as soon as possible - via this newsletter, but also by providing timely staff briefings. These will be backed up by emails to ensure all staff are informed at the same time.

For the latest, more detailed information, a comprehensive HR FAQ document, including the questions and answers taken from staff briefings, is available on the SCC section of the intranet – which will be regularly updated.

### **Ways of Working**

A paper outlining the functions of the new joint control room has been signed off by Gary Walsh (DCFO, ESFRS) and Lee Neale (ACFO, WSFRS) and forms the foundation of the proposed staffing models, which were presented to control staff on July 3rd. It is also being used for the User and Technical Specification of the Mobilising System Procurement.

The two staffing models presented on July 3rd were formulated by the Control Room Managers from each FRS and presented to the Joint Programme Board who agreed for them to go out for consultation with staff. Feedback from control staff and trade unions is now being invited before the final model is approved. The intention is for working groups, comprised of Control Room staff from each organisation, to be involved in formulating the final structure – which will then be presented to the Joint Programme Board in due course for final approval.

All control staff should by now have seen the two models and views, and feedback should be sent to [special.projects@esfrs.org](mailto:special.projects@esfrs.org) by September 1st 2012.

### **Accommodation/Premises**

As soon as the Haywards Heath location was confirmed, the required building alternations were given the 'green light' and work will commence at the earliest possible opportunity. The target date for starting to receive 999 calls at the new SCC remains September 2013.

Work is continuing on various design specifications and control staff will be given the opportunity to air their views on aspects such as furniture, decoration, car parking, etc.

### **Training & Development**

There are no significant updates for this workstream as yet. This workstream will lay dormant for the next few months whilst work is completed on procurement, accommodation and 'Ways of Working'.

The Training & Development and Ways of Working workstreams will work hand in hand to ensure that, as far as is practically possible, both FRSs work to the same procedures. This will include work on PDAs – including National Incident Types, aligning policies and procedures for operational crews, national call signs, station numbers, etc.

## Your newsletter

This is *your* newsletter and we want you to be involved in its content. We hope you find it informative and welcome feedback – good and bad!

We also want to get the look and feel of the newsletter right, including the logo. The logo used on the first issue received a mixed reception, so we'd be grateful if you could vote for your favourite from these four logo designs.

To vote for your choice please email: [special.projects@esfrs.org](mailto:special.projects@esfrs.org) – writing 'SCC logo' in the subject box, along with the appropriate number for your choice.

Alternatively, if there are any budding graphic designers out there, please feel free to send us any of your designs. It may well become the official logo for the newsletter!

## Control 'news and views'

We'd also like future editions of the newsletter to include the latest news from control staff in both East and West. If you have any updates or news you can share via the newsletter then please do send them in. Another area we'd particularly like to develop, with input from control staff, is a section for joint working and team building – including any social events. It would be great to get some joint social events taking place as the project moves forward.

## Christmas Party

Control staff at WSFRS should already have received an invite to the ESFRS Christmas party. Anyone who is interested in attending should contact Sue Ivatt – [Sue.Ivatt@esfrs.org](mailto:Sue.Ivatt@esfrs.org).

It's hoped 'Getting to know you' will be another regular feature, a Watch by Watch introduction with a little information about each Watch member – interests, hobbies, etc, etc. Please send them in!

## Further Information & Contacts

If you have any questions or comments, either about the newsletter or the SCC project in general, please email: [special.projects@esfrs.org](mailto:special.projects@esfrs.org)



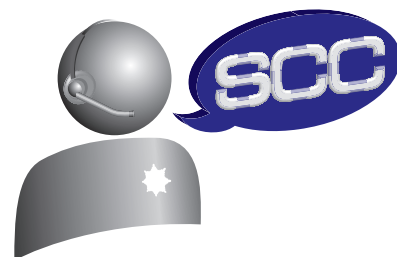
Logo One



Logo Two



Logo Three



Logo Four

