***Authority Background Information***

BFRS operates from fourteen (14) fire stations which vary in status from being staffed 24/7, 365 days a year, to being completely on a Retained Duty System (RDS), which means firefighters are on call day and night and are alerted to incidents by a pager;

On an annual basis, the Authority receives approximately 38,000 calls of which approximately 13,000, are emergency calls to 9,200 different incidents; 2,000 of those being fires. The remaining being incidents including RTC, flooding, automatic fire alarms, animal rescues, chemical spills and water rescues;

The Authority has a fleet of approximately 100 vehicles, 43 of these vehicles are used for emergency response. 22 of these are ‘standard’ fire appliances and the remainder is made up of 'special' vehicles such as Specialist Rescue Units, Aerial Appliances, and Incident Command Unit;

The Control Room operates on 24 hours a day, 365 days per year (366 during leap years) basis, comprises of twenty-two (22) Control Room staff and has a total number of five (5) mobilising workstations. It is located at the Authority’s Headquarters in Kempston.

BFRS operates a 100% cloud based mobilising solution connected to the ESN for live service. The Solution makes use of an ESN Direct Network Service Provider (DNSP) and a managed firewall, using Motorola’s cloud-based Command Central Control (CRS) system with Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) solution from 3TC. The mobilising system links to mobile data terminals fitted with ESN Connect SIM cards, which connect devices to the ESN data service. The groundwork that has taken place has ensured BFRS are well prepared for full ESN implementation, as much of the pre-requisite infra-structure has been installed.

***Scope of the contracted provision (i.e. proposed goods / services / works to be contracted; current volumes of contracted provision)***

BFRS SEE is the equipment located at each BFRS Fire Station that receives both fire call and admin information from BFRS Control. On receipt of a fire call the SEE will: (dependent on the site)

* Transmit a radio message to activate appropriate On-call Alerters.
* Print the “Tip Sheet” detailing the call
* Send an acknowledgement that the call has been received
* Activate the lights and sounders on site
* Activate other peripheral equipment such as heating etc.

The equipment that comprises SEE varies across the type of site. A full list of SEE is below

* Incoming connection to our Wide Area Corporate Network
* Incoming connection to Telephone Network (currently BT)
* **A GD92 Interface card to interpret the output from the mobilising system (additional cards at whole time stations)**
* **Back-up power supplies for all equipment**
* **PSTN Modem**
* **Back-up power supplies for printers**
* **One or more AC/DC printers**
* **Sounders**
* **One or more ‘Christmas tree’ lights.**
* **PA Amps and associated speakers (internal and external)**
* **UHF Transmitters and associated aerials and cabling**
* **Pager Encoders**
* **Engineering Alerters**

The equipment in bold is that which falls under the scope of equipment that requires replacement. The ‘Christmas Tree’ lights and PA amps and speakers are only required at a number of stations.

***Description of how the contracted provision is delivered currently***

BFRS has a support contract with Telent for the existing SEE. Spares supply is available in house.

***Reason for the provision being contracted (e.g. expiry; change in requirements; consolidation of contracts etc.)***

The BFRS SEE equipment is approaching 40 years old and in terms of longevity, it has far exceeded its operating life. Given its age, serviceability and lack of spares continued use represents a significant risk to the Service.

***Proposed procurement method***

Where possible our intention is to make use of available frameworks such as the Crown Commercial Services RM6068 Technology Products & Associated Services Framework.

***Proposed contract term and start date***

Up to 5 years.

***Estimated contract value***

BFRS has secured a budget of £340K which is expected to cover the SEE replacement, on-going licensing and support costs over 4 years, and any integration required with other systems within BFRS.