

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AUTHORITY	
date	26 MARCH 2004	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval for the establishment of the East Midlands Regional Management Board in accordance with the expectations contained within the White Paper, Draft National Framework and in accordance with Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Government published its White Paper "Our Fire and Rescue Service" in July 2003 and the Draft National Framework for the Fire and Rescue Service in November 2003. Paragraph 4.17 of the White Paper and 2.19 of the Framework detail ODPM's expectations for the establishment of 9 Regional Management Boards in England and Wales, to be responsible for the implementation of key aspects of the modernisation agenda.

3 REPORT

- 3.1 The Fire Authority, at its meeting on 19 December 2003 agreed the draft constitution for the Board. According to the legal advisors to the 5 fire authorities comprising the proposed East Midlands Board, each authority individually has to approve the attached agreement (**Appendix A**) before 1 April 2004 in order that the Board may be established.
- 3.2 The Deputy Prime Minister has made it clear that, if Regional Management Boards are not in place and effectively established to deliver the above, then powers conferred on him to combine authorities will be used. The Chairs of the 5 fire authorities agreed the constitution at their meeting on 19 February 2004.
- 3.3 In addition to the Agreement, the Chairs also agreed the distribution of the 4.17/2.19 objectives, appointing lead authorities to deal with individual aspects of work. Chief Fire Officers have been tasked with providing reports to the March meeting of the Chairs of fire authorities, detailing how those objectives will be managed from 1 April 2004 when the Board is in existence. The list of objectives and lead authorities is attached - see **Appendix B**.

- 3.4 The list of proposed dates for the Regional Management Board meetings have been identified and are attached as **Appendix C**. The constitution of the Board clearly shows that, in accordance with the Local Government Act, Board meetings are open to the public.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are financial implications arising from the creation of the East Midlands Regional Management Board. In the first instance the constituent fire authorities will be required to share the secretariat and support function costs associated with the running of the Board. In the first year of operation the Board will receive reports from lead authorities detailing proposals for the delivery of the White Paper/Framework objectives.
- 4.2 There are existing financial resources in the budget to support this Authority's share of the secretariat costs and support to the first phase of the Regional Control Room project. Proposals put to the Board for 2005/6 will need to be brought to the Fire Authority ahead of the budget setting process for that year.

5 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no personnel implications arising from this report. There are inevitably going to be personnel implications arising from the detailed reports underpinning the objectives. The Regional Control project is an example.

6 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equal opportunities implications arising directly from this report. Detailed reports to the Board will need to contain equal opportunities implications arising from proposals to deliver the White Paper objectives.

7 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are risk implications arising from this report. The ODPM have expressed its view on any subsequent failure on the part of fire authorities to enter into robust arrangements for the creation of the Regional Management Board and the delivery of the objectives.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 That the Constitution of the East Midlands Regional Management Board be approved and the Clerk be authorised to sign the agreement and
- 8.2 That the Authority's two representatives on the Board and Members who may act as substitutes in accordance with the Board's Standing Order 17 be appointed.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

White Paper "Our Fire & Rescue Service"
Draft National Framework

P. Woods
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Appendix A is not yet available in electronic form. Please contact Catherine Ziane-Pryor on 0115 9154594 to obtain a hard copy.

LIST OF OBJECTIVES AND LEAD AUTHORITIES

At a recent meeting of East Midlands Chief Fire Officers to discuss lead authorities and work streams, it was proposed that the six strategic objectives be allocated as below:

- **Integrate common and specialist services**
Finance – Leicestershire/ Nottinghamshire
Fleet – Northamptonshire/ Lincolnshire
Fire Investigation - Derbyshire
- **Put in place effective resilience plans for large scale emergencies**
Northamptonshire
- **Establish regional control rooms**
Leicestershire
- **Introduce regional personnel and human resource functions**
Nottinghamshire
- **Develop a regional approach to training**
Derbyshire
- **Introduce regional procurement within the context of a national procurement strategy**
Lincolnshire

APPENDIX C**DATES OF REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETINGS**

Date	Time	Venue:
29 April 2004	1400 hours	Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service HQ
24 June 2004	1400 hours	Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service HQ
2 September 2004	1400 hours	Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service HQ
28 October 2004	1400 hours	Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service HQ
16 December 2004	1400 hours	Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service HQ
3 March 2005	1400 hours	Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service HQ