



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority

# REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD UPDATE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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**Agenda No:**

**Date:** 26 June 2009

**Purpose of Report:**

To update Members on the business of the East Midlands Regional Management Board at its meeting of 9 April 2009.

## CONTACT OFFICER

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Chief Fire Officer

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The provision of the Regional Management Board (RMB) for Fire and Rescue Services was first introduced following the publication of the inaugural National Framework in 2004/5. The concept had originally been suggested within the White Paper – “Our Fire and Rescue Service” – and was ratified through the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.
- 1.2 The East Midlands Fire and Rescue Services Regional Management Board (EMRMB) is made up of two Elected Members from the five Fire and Rescue Services. These are Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire. The Chair and Vice-Chair of Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority represent the Authority on the EMRMB, which meets regularly throughout the year.

## 2. REPORT

- 2.1 The EMRMB last met on Thursday 9 April 2009 and the unconfirmed minutes are attached to this report at Appendix A. The EMRMB is next scheduled to meet on Thursday 16 July 2009.
- 2.2 At the meeting of 9 April 2009 a number of reports from Chief Officers were presented for consideration and discussion. In summary these were:
  - Aims, objectives and priorities for 2009/10;
  - East Midlands Regional Fire Control Project and the Firelink Radio Project;
  - Finance commitments of the Board;
  - Joint Partnership Forum update;
  - Procurement work stream update;
  - Integrated common services work stream update;
  - Workforce development work stream closure update;
  - Business support services submission 2009/11;
  - Progress report of the East Midlands wholetime fire fighter regional recruitment campaign 2008/09;
  - Sub-regional finance and procurement software update.
- 2.3 All of these reports relate to activities undertaken by and through the EMRMB as specified in the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008-11. This states that RMBs must:

“Have clear aims and objectives and, where needed, costed plans to deliver on their core business which includes:

  - Integrating common and specialist services;
  - Introducing regional personnel and human resources functions;
  - Developing a regional approach to training;
  - Introducing regional procurement within the context of the National Improvement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service.”

- 2.4 Additionally, Fire and Rescue Authorities must make preparations to move their Control service to the Regional Control Centre network, working through their RMB. They must also support the rollout of the Firelink radio system and through the RMBs, review the opportunities to deliver greater efficiencies through closer joint working on a regional or sub-regional level.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service is an equal contributor to the costs associated with the EMRMB, along with the other four Fire and Rescue Services. The EMRMB also seeks to draw financial assistance from other areas, such as Communities and Local Government and the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership, to support its work.

### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service undertakes wholetime fire fighter recruitment, the assessment of potential managers and engages with appropriate trade union consultation at a regional level as a result of the EMRMB. This provides efficiencies for the Service where costs and impact would have been borne by the Service.

### **5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

An initial equality impact assessment has identified no specific aspects relating to a disproportionate effect in respect of the key equality strands.

### **6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The requirement to operate within the principles of the Regional Management Board are laid down within the Fire and Rescue Services National Framework. This is assessed through Service performance assessment and failure to engage or demonstrate sufficient progress could lead to poor audit assessments and ultimately ministerial intervention.

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the business of the East Midlands Regional Management Board at its meeting of 9 April 2009.

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)**

None.

Frank Swann  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

**DRAFT**



**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**Held: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 2.00 pm at Leicestershire  
Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Leicester Road, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8HD**

**P R E S E N T:**

**Derbyshire Fire Authority  
Councillor Chris Williamson**

**Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority  
Councillor Peter Roffey (Chairman)  
Councillor Cliff Stanley**

**Lincolnshire County Council  
Councillor Peter Robinson**

**Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority  
Councillor Darrell Pulk (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Penny Griggs**

**Northamptonshire County Council  
Councillor Brandon Eldred**

**Officers in Attendance**

**Mr Steve Lunn, ACFO Leicestershire  
Mr Brian Tregunna, CFO Derbyshire  
Mr Mike Thomas, CFO Lincolnshire  
Mr Martyn Emberson, CFO Northamptonshire  
Mr Frank Swann, CFO Nottinghamshire  
Mr Guy Bramley, Nottinghamshire**

## **Board Officers**

**Mr Guy Goodman, Clerk to the Board**

**Mr Adam Stretton, deputising for the Treasurer**

**Ms Jo Beresford, Regional Programme Manager**

**Ms Elisabeth Reeson, Press Officer**

**Mrs Jackie Green, Business Support Team**

### 34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**Apologies were received from Councillor Jean Johnson (Lincolnshire), Councillor Bill Parker (Northamptonshire), Councillor Paul Smith (Derbyshire), CFO Dave Webb (Leicestershire) and Trevor Peel (Treasurer).**

### 35. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE BOARD

**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### 36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**Councillors Peter Roffey, Cliff Stanley, Chris Williamson, Penny Griggs, Peter Robinson, Brandon Eldred and Darrell Pulk each declared a personal interest as Fire and Rescue Authority appointed Directors of East Midlands Fire and Rescue Control Centre Limited for items 9.1 and 9.4.**

### 37. OTHER BUSINESS OF THE CHAIR

**There was no other business of the chair.**

### 38. QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8.1

**There were no questions received.**

### 39. REPORTS OF THE CLERK

#### 39.1 FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES

- **Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009**
- **Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009**
- **Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010**
- **Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010**

RESOLVED:

That the proposed future meeting dates be approved.

#### 39.2 AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES FOR 2009/10

**The Clerk presented his report inviting the Board to review their Aims, Objectives and Priorities for 2009/10. It was widely recognised that working as a region was a good step forward.**

**CFO Swann indicated that he would like to change the wording of Priority 3 to focus on the Board's Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership obligations and that the new wording would be in the Annual Report and Business Plan at the Annual Meeting in July 2009.**

**The Board acknowledged and gave thanks for the input and hard work that the Regional Programme Manager had contributed over the years.**

RESOLVED:

The Board agreed to the revised Aims, Objectives and Priorities for 2009/10 subject to the amendment of the wording to Priority 3 being included in the next Annual Report and Business Plan.

#### 40. REPORTS OF THE TREASURER

##### 40.1 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS OF THE BOARD

**Adam Stretton presented the report on behalf of the Treasurer which set out the progress made against the agreed 2008/09 budget and provided further details on the agreed budget for 2009/10.**

**During discussions the Board queried the request for another part time post for the unions to support consultation on the FireControl Project. It was felt that more information was needed to be able to consider a response, although it was pointed out that less than half the money needed would be from the RMB.**

RESOLVED:

- a) The Board NOTED the budget position for 2008/09
- b) The Board requested a further report be brought to the July meeting with more information with regards to the proposed additional post to support the staff-side on the Joint Partnership Forum in consultations concerning the FireControl Project

41. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS OF CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES

41.1 REGIONAL FIRECONTROL PROJECT AND EAST MIDLANDS FIRELINK PROJECT UPDATE

**ACFO Steve Lunn presented this update report to the Board. It was recognised that steady but good progress was being made.**

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the contents of this report.

41.2 JOINT PARTNERSHIP FORUM UPDATE

**CFO Thomas presented his report updating the Board on discussions and consultations held by the Joint Partnership Forum since the last meeting. Appended to the report were the approved minutes of the January JPF meeting for information.**

**The Board were informed that the Regional TUPE Consultation Group was disbanded at their second meeting.**

RESOLVED:

The Board noted this report.

41.3 PROCUREMENT WORKSTREAM – ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT AND PROGRESS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/09

**CFO Thomas presented this report to update the Board on the annual progress for meeting the objectives and targets of the Regional Procurement workstream. CFO Thomas confirmed significant progress was being made generally. However, despite three attempts no suitable candidate had been secured to increase support for the Regional Procurement Manager. The costs of the post will be funded by Lincolnshire from procurement efficiency savings. The Board welcomed the in depth report acknowledging the significant challenges involved.**

RESOLVED:

- a) The Board noted the report.
- b) The Board noted that the annual regional procurement plan will be presented to the next meeting in July.
- c) The Board welcomed the award of Member of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (MCIPS) to Julia Skinner in Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue. A letter of congratulations to be sent from the RMB Chair.



#### 41.4 INTEGRATED COMMON SERVICES UPDATE

**CFO Swann presented his report which updated the Board on the completion of the Integrated Common Services project for the RCC's Support Services and the handing over of the project to the Regional Procurement Manager and the Regional Control Centre Service Support Manager.**

**The report was designed to bring closure to the project and no further specific reports will be presented to the Board as the procurement of the services is a matter for the LACC. The Board will be kept aware of progress through the Regional Control Centre/FireLink updates. Appreciation was expressed for all the work done to date.**

**RESOLVED:**

**The Board noted the final stages of the project and its transition to the procurement stage and the transfer of responsibility to the LACC.**

#### 41.5 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CLOSURE UPDATE

**CFO Tregunna presented his report to the Board on the closure of the Workforce Development workstream and the development of the new People workstream.**

**The Board were updated on the progress of the Regional Wholetime Firefighter recruitment. Physical tests for the 500 applicants who have progressed to that stage of the process will commence on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The Board were also assured that the planned regional Assessment and Development Centres, the Middle Manager ADCs and the Supervisory ADCs will all be taking place as arranged.**

**The People workstream will meet for the first time in April, the agreed priorities and lead services are envisaged to create greater efficiencies through joint working.**

**CFO Tregunna informed the Board that interviews for the new post of Regional ADC/Recruitment Manager are taking place on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009 and he would report the outcome to the next meeting.**

**RESOLVED:**

**The Board noted the closure of the Workforce Development workstream and the development of the new People workstream.**

#### 41.6 BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES SUBMISSION 2009/11

**Jo Beresford presented this report to the Board to agree and**

**approve the business arrangement contract for the next two years.**

RESOLVED:

The Board considered and approved the bid for its future business support arrangements received from Leicestershire.

**41.7 PROGRESS REPORT ON EAST MIDLANDS WHOLETIME FIREFIGHTER REGIONAL RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN 2008/09**

**CFO Swann presented the Board with an update report on the current status of the 2008/09 Regional Wholetime Firefighter Recruitment Process.**

**The overall position to date following the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage sift (Personal Qualities and Attributes) is disappointing in respect of black and ethnic minority group failure rate. It was widely acknowledged by the Board that a lot of hard work involving positive action had been done and a large publicity drive to ensure public awareness undertaken by Services but it still remains questionable as to what more can be done to boost the success rate within this area.**

**The Board recognised the need to put a case forward to ascertain why women and ethnic minority groups are failing at certain stages. The Board requested a further update report be brought to the July meeting, and CFO Swann was asked to scope a piece of research to establish answers to the issues raised. If these are not resolved now the region face going into another cycle of recruitment with the same potential floors in the process.**

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the progress of the regional Wholetime firefighter recruitment campaign and asked that a further progress report to be brought to the July meeting.

**41.8 SUB-REGIONAL FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT SOFTWARE SYSTEM UPDATE**

**CFO Swann presented his report to the Board detailing the project to procure and implement a common finance and procurement system for Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.**

**A further report will be brought to a future meeting updating the Board on the outcome of an approach to to the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership for invest to save funding.**

RESOLVED:

- a) The Board agreed the project and funding proposal.
- b) The Board agreed to support the bid to the RIEP for external funding to complete the project.

42. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TABLED BY MEMBERS

**There were no motions tabled by members.**

43. CLOSE OF MEETING

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 3:26pm.**

Minutes of the meeting held on  
9<sup>th</sup> April 2009

6 pages

Signed:

Date: