

## report

meeting	<b>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>	
	<b>POLICY &amp; STRATEGY COMMITTEE</b>	
date	<b>22 May 2006</b>	agenda item number

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

#### REGIONAL ISSUES

##### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the current position relating to the development of regional collaborative working, the workstreams initiated by the Regional Management Board, and the future strategic implications for this Authority.

##### 2. BACKGROUND

The White Paper "Our Fire and Rescue Service", the Fire and Rescue Services Act and subsequent National Framework documents, clearly specify Government's expectations for collaborative working within English regions. There are specific action points that introduced Regional Management Boards with six workstreams, including the new Regional Control Centre, procurement, and integrated common services as examples. The Authority is represented on the Regional Management Board (RMB). Members receive regular reports arising from RMB meetings.

##### 3. REPORT

- 3.1 RMB workstreams are run within recognised project management guidelines. As such, there are published objectives associated with each. The RMB has Terms of Reference and Objectives.
- 3.2 It is important for the Authority to review the relationship between the RMB and the Authority and to ensure that the strategic objectives of the Authority are met by the activities of the Board. It is equally important for the Authority to review the wider potential issues arising from Government policy in areas not necessarily directly associated with Fire and Rescue. Proposed police force mergers being an example of one non-fire issue that could have potential to impact on the Service.
- 3.3 The Policy and Strategy Committee is asked to consider how best to address this issue and the information the Authority requires in order to undertake that analysis. A review of RMB workstream objectives and progress is one essential component. Convergence issues associated with the introduction of the Regional Control Centre is another.
- 3.4 The informal Member meeting arrangements have been a valuable mechanism for such work, and it is recommended that this arrangement be used to facilitate

discussion on regional working. Members might wish to consider the involvement of Members or Officers from regional entities, such as the East Midlands Local Government Association or the Government Office for the East Midlands, in the provision of information to inform the debate.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, other than the cost of facilitation, which can be met from within existing budgets.

#### **5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

#### **6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

A initial impact assessment has revealed no specific equality issues arising from this report.

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

It is important that Members have relevant information and advice available in order to consider strategic issues for the Authority arising from Government policy in order to ensure effective service delivery arrangements.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members :

8.1 Consider the implications of this report.

8.2 Seek arrangements for Members to discuss the future of regional working through an informal seminar.

8.3 Seek reports from Officers to inform the discussion at that seminar.

#### **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INFORMATION**

None.

Paul Woods  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

<b>CONTACT OFFICER</b>	
Name :	Paul Woods Chief Fire Officer
Tel. No :	0115 967 0880
E-mail :	paul.woods@notts-fire.gov.uk