

MEETING: 18 JULY 2011

SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP BULLETIN AWARDS 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report informs Members that the NEFRA project has won the prestigious Grand Prix Award, presented by the Partnership Bulletin at a ceremony recently held in London.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 As members will recall this Authority, in partnership with Northumberland and Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authorities, embarked on a PFI project to build five community fire stations and a new headquarters building for Northumberland, which was referred to as the North East Fire and Rescue Authorities (NEFRA) project.

2.2 The project, primarily led by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority, was undertaken by John Laing Investments and Shepherd Construction, and was brought to successful conclusion in August 2010, with the new community fire station for North Shields opening its doors in June 2010.

2.3 Overall, the NEFRA project proved to be very successful and all parties involved in it deserve credit for their contribution. Indeed, the success of the project has been recognised externally, at the Partnership Bulletin Award Ceremony, where the NEFRA project won two awards.

3 PARTNERSHIP BULLETIN AWARDS

3.1 The awards were presented at a ceremony organised by the Partnership Bulletin, which is a magazine and website dedicated to providing information and updates on partnership working between the public and private sector, including PFI, PPE and other similar schemes.

3.2 This body holds an annual awards ceremony at which winning projects are chosen from nominations entered into a variety of award categories, such as education, healthcare and community.

3.3 The first of the awards presented to NEFRA was in the 'Best Accommodation' category, where the project had been shortlisted along with a further five nominated projects.

3.4 However, whilst this award is to be welcomed it was success in the main award of the night, the 'Project Grand Prix' that was particularly notable. This award is

presented to the project which the judges believe has best delivered, 'outstanding improvement in public service for the benefit of communities'.

- 3.5 The Chief Fire Officer believes that the receipt of this award is just recognition of the commitment shown from all those involved in the project and stands as testament to the professional approach of the Authority's staff.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Members are requested to:

- i) Note the content of this report
 - ii) Congratulate all those involved in the NEFRA project.
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