

## North East Fire and Rescue Regional Management Board

### BOARD MEETING

At a meeting of **the North East Fire and Rescue Regional Management Board**, held in **Committee Room 3, County Hall, Morpeth** on 24 July 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

### PRESENT

#### COUNCILLORS

Brown, J.	Rickerby, L.J.
Cooney, N.	Smith, J.E.
Forster, B.	Styring, R.
Jones, B.	Thompson, L.
Porely, P.E.	Wright, T.H.

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Bathgate, I.	Johnson, S.
Bennett, L.M.	Watts, P.
Emmerson, A.	Tilson, P.
Hesler, B.	

#### 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor T.H. Wright, seconded by Councillor P.E. Porley and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs B. Foster be appointed Chairman for the forthcoming year.

#### 2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs .J. Rickerby, seconded by Councillor L. Thomson and **RESOLVED** that Councillor I. Lindley be appointed Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

### **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Forbes, N. Forbes, B. Avery and I. Lindley

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor B. Foster declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in relation to in any matters relating to the LACC Board.

### **5. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the North East Fire and Rescue Regional Management Board held on 26 March 2009 as circulated, be confirmed as a true record

### **6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD 2009/10**

Members were informed of the appointments to the Board and LACC Board made by the constituent authorities.

**RESOLVED** that the appointments to the Board be approved and the appointments to the LACC be noted.

### **7. REVIEW OF THE NUMBER OF MEETINGS PER YEAR OF REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Members were informed that there was now a reduced need for detailed papers to be presented to the RMB meetings. This was due to significant progress having been made in respect of a number of workstreams. In view of this Members were requested to consider a reduction in the number of meetings. If agreed a revised RMB Agreement would be produced for approval.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the RMB Agreement be reviewed
- (2) the proposed reduction in the number of RMB meetings to four per year, with the provision for additional extraordinary meetings as deemed appropriate by the Chairman, be approved.

### **8. SCHEDULE OF REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETINGS 2009/10**

The following schedule of future Board meetings for 2009/10 was considered by Members:-

Tuesday, 3 November 2009	10.00 a.m.	Durham and Darlington
Tuesday, 15 December 2009	10.00 a.m.	Cleveland
Tuesday, 2 March 2009	10.00 a.m.	Tyne & Wear
Tuesday, 29 June 2009	10.00 a.m.	Northumberland (AGM)

## 9. FIRE CONTROL PROJECT NORTH EAST REGION

Members received an update on progress in respect of the FiReControl project and the establishment of the Regional Control Centre in the North East.

Members were informed that a Ministerial announcement on the delivery schedule had been made after the report to the Board had been prepared. As a result, it was now clear that there would be further delays of approximately 10 months. It was now expected that Tyne & Wear would be delivered in May 2011, Durham and Darlington in July 2011 and Northumberland and Cleveland in November 2011.

It was reported that the central costs of the project would be spread over 9 regions and split on a Council Tax base. The latest Business Case showed that two Authorities may make savings whereas two would not. It was noted that any savings made could be reinvested elsewhere in the service and it was explained that this would enable investment in areas which were currently underfunded.

It was reported that the Group Functions may be centred on London but it was not yet clear what the cost implications would be or whether current North East staff would be able to take up posts.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted and that further reports are received as appropriate.

## 10. RMB EXPENDITURE AND INCOME FOR 2008/09

Members received information on the expenditure and income for the Regional Management Board and were asked to approve the accounts for 2008/09.

It was reported that due to the cancellation of the June meeting, it had not been possible to meet the 30 June deadline for submission of the signed accounts. The accounts, if agreed at the meeting, would be signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

**RESOLVED** that the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 be approved.

**11. BACKWARD LOOK ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENTS (AES's) FOR 2008/2009 AND FORWARD LOOK AES's FOR 2009/10**

Members were informed of the reported annual efficiencies in the NE RMB's Annual Efficiency Statement (AES) which was due for submission by 20 July 2009.

It was reported that it was a requirement of Fire Service Circular 26/2008 that the efficiencies gained through collaborative working should be reported collectively through the RMB. The return had now been submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the submission on the information attached in Appendices 1 to 3 to CLG as the Regional AES for NE Fire Services be noted.

**12. NEFRA (1) COLLABORATIVE PFI PROJECT – PROGRESS REPORT**

Members were updated on current progress with the NEFRA (1) Project. It was reported that Shepherds Construction Ltd had commenced work on all sites on 6 July 2009.

**RESOLVED** that the report and contents be noted and further reports be received as appropriate.

**13. NEFRA (2) COLLABORATIVE PFI PROJECT – UPDATE**

Members were updated with progress with NEFRA (2) Collaborative PFI Project.

A query was raised as to whether the credits taken from NEFRA(2) to support NEFRA (1) would be reinstated. It was reported that this was a Ministerial decision but that a decision was expected by end of July 2009.

**RESOLVED** that the report and contents be noted and further reports be received as appropriate.

**14. REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD MEMBER AWARENESS EVENT**

Members considered a proposal that a member awareness event be organised which would cover the functions, achievements to date and ongoing work through the approved workstreams at regional level. It was also suggested that attendance may be broadened to any member in order to broaden the understanding of the RMB and the partnership working between the four fire authorities in the North East.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the proposal for a Member Awareness Event be approved along with limited funding for the event to be approved from the RMB budget.
- (2) the organisation of the event be delegated to the Chief Officers' Board.

**CHAIRMAN**.....

**DATE**.....

