

MEETING: 28 FEBRUARY 2011

SUBJECT: FUTURE USE OF NORTH EAST FIRE CONTROL COMPANY FOR THE PROVISION OF MOBILISING CONTROL SERVICES

JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY, THE FINANCE OFFICER AND PERSONNEL ADVISOR

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the current status of the North East Fire Control Company (NEFCC) and seeks the approval of Members to the proposal to write to the Company advising it that this Authority will no longer require its services.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The North East Fire Control Company (NEFCC) was constituted for the sole purpose of providing a mobilising and control room function to the four Fire and Rescue Authorities in the North East as part of the Government led national FiReControl project. NEFCC was intended to discharge the Authority's statutory function set out in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 Section 7-2(C) and operate as a Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) limited by guarantee.
- 2.2 On 20 December 2010 the Fire Minister Bob Neill MP announced that the FiReControl Project was to cease and Regional Project Directors should make arrangements to wind-up project activity. Additionally, individual Fire and Rescue Authorities have been directed by DCLG to consider options for the future delivery of call handling and mobilising functions.

3 EXPECTED FUTURE USE OF NEFCC

- 3.1 The LACC governance model was determined by DCLG in the early stages of the FiReControl Project as the preferred model for management of the North East Regional Control Centre (RCC) as part of the national network and the services that were intended to be delivered from therein.
- 3.2 With the termination of the RCC project the requirement for the LACC to provide mobilising and resource management services to this Authority as part of the nation system has now be removed.
- 3.3 Accordingly, the Chief Fire Officer is of the opinion that the LACC has no further role to play with regard to the ongoing provision of a command and control function within this Authority and as such is seeking the permission of Members to write to the NEFCC to inform the Company of this position.

4 RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 A risk assessment has been undertaken to ensure that the risk to the Authority has been minimised as far as practicable. The assessment has considered an appropriate balance between risk and control; the realisation of efficiencies; the most appropriate use of limited resources; and a comprehensive evaluation of the benefits. The risk to the authority has been assessed as low utilising the standard risk matrix based on control measures being in place. The complete risk assessment is available on request from the Chief Fire Officer.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 NEFCC is a company limited by guarantee and as such liability for members of the company is limited to an amount not exceeding one pound.

5.2 No other financial implications are expected in respect of this specific report.

6 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Authority is recommended to:

- a) Approve that the Chief Fire Officer to write to NEFCC Company indicating the Authority's position with regard to the NEFCC as outlined in 3.3
- b) Receive further reports as appropriate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The under mentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- NEFCC Articles of association