

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 8

MEETING: 17 JULY 2017

**SUBJECT: THE REVISED NATIONAL COORDINATION AND ADVISORY
FRAMEWORK FOR ENGLAND**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER / CHIEF EXECUTIVE (THE CLERK TO
THE AUTHORITY)**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the publication of the 3rd edition of the National Coordination and Advisory Framework (NCAF) for England.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Major emergencies place significant demands on local fire and rescue services, often requiring a nationally coordinated response. Such incidents may occur over a protracted period and require extensive resources, logistical support, specialist advice and guidance.
- 2.2 NCAF first published in 2009 provides robust, yet flexible, response arrangements for emergencies that can be adapted to the nature, scale and requirements of the event. In this way, it supports fire and rescue services in the resolution of major incidents, whilst affording valuable support at the interface between local and central government.
- 2.3 The framework arrangements complement and reinforce local mutual assistance arrangements under sections 13 and 16 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.
- 2.4 NCAF also strengthens resilience during the planning, preparation and response phases of incidents of national significance that require national coordination. The responsibility for resolving incidents effectively and safely, and for implementing safe systems of work through effective command and control arrangements, remains the responsibility of the local fire and rescue authority.
- 2.5 The effectiveness of NCAF is dependent upon individual fire and rescue authorities releasing resources for national deployment when requested. TWFRAs are a signatory to the National Mutual Aid Protocol for Serious Incidents and expected to adhere to its principles and purpose.

- 2.6 Nonetheless, the framework recognises that during incidents of national significance individual authorities may wish to retain assets for deployment in accordance with risk assessments within their own Integrated Risk Management Plan.
- 2.7 The framework will also support communities affected by emergencies in returning to normality as quickly as possible whilst affording a valuable interface between local and central government.

3 CHANGES REQUIRING THE THIRD EDITION

- 3.1 The Fire & Rescue National Framework for England states that during emergencies the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) will work with other government departments, partner organisations, and the devolved administrations to coordinate the deployment arrangements for fire and rescue assets. On 1 April 2016, this duty transferred to the Home Office following the transition of governance for fire and rescue services.
- 3.2 During this transition, the role of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser (CFRA) role became incorporated in to that of the Chair of the National Fire Chief Council (NFCC) and the duty National Strategic Advisory Team (NSAT). They now have overall responsibility for the coordination of fire and rescue service national resilience assets, the provision of professional advice, assurance and guidance to fire and rescue services, partner agencies and Government including COBR.
- 3.3 As of April 2017, Merseyside FRS became responsible for the delivery of national resilience assurance under a sector led model. This revision delivers a 25% saving, whilst minimising disruption to the services delivered. To support this transfer the National Coordination Centre (NCC) that co-ordinates the monitoring and mobilisation of national assets transferred to Merseyside FRS.
- 3.4 The diagram in appendix A represents NCAF as it operates at a strategic level, and how it is flexible in application depending on the nature of the incident and resources required. The modifications to NCAF arrangements due to the changes highlighted in sections 3.1 to 3.4 are circled for ease of reference.
- 3.5 The NCAF arrangements were tested successfully during Exercise Black Kite with the mobilisation to Tyne and Wear of five Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams and two Enhanced Logistic Support (ELS) vehicles.

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 There are no financial implications in respect of this 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) Note the content of the report;
- b) Receive further reports as appropriate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- The National Coordination and Advisory Framework (NCAF) England, 3rd Edition
- Fire and Rescue Service Supporting Guidance to the National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework Version 1.5

Appendix A – NCAF in Operation

