

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 Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Nissan Way, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, SR5 3QY on Tuesday, 3 November, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillor I. Lindley
(Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

Cherrett, J.	Tennant, G.
Forbes, M.	Thomson, L.
Forbes, N.	Thompson, J.A.
Jones, B.	Wright, T.H.
Magee, C.	Woodwark, T.
Porely, P.E.	

IN ATTENDANCE

Bathgate, I.	Hewitt, J.
Bennett, L.M.	Hindmarsh, J.
Cook, N.	Tilson, P.
Emmerson, A.	Watts, P.
Hesler, B.	

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. Cooney, B. Forster, L.J. Rickerby, R. Styring, and T.H. Wright.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor I Lindley declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in relation to any items relating to the LACC Board.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the North East Fire and Rescue Regional Management Board held on 24 July 2009 as circulated, be confirmed as a true record, with the following comments:

It was noted that Karen Winter had been present at the meeting.

Schedule of Regional Management Board Meetings 2009/10

It was noted that the dates for 2 March and 29 June should read 2010 and not 2009.

It was reported that it had originally been intended to hold the Member Awareness Day at Tyne & Wear in December 2009, however, it was now felt more appropriate to hold the Awareness Day at Tyne & Wear in March 2010, when the new building would be ready. The schedule in the minutes had, therefore, been amended and would now be as follows:-

Tuesday, 15 December 2009	Cleveland
Tuesday, 2 March 2010	Tyne & Wear
Tuesday, 29 June 2010 (AGM)	Durham & Darlington

18. FIRE CONTROL PROJECT NORTH EAST REGION

The report updated members on progress in respect of the FiReControl project and the establishment of the Regional Control Centre in the North East.

Members were informed that the delivery schedule had been extended and the revised go-live dates for the North East were:-

- Tyne & Wear – May 2011
- Durham & Darlington – July 2011
- Northumberland and Cleveland – September 2011

In September 2009, the LGA Fire Services Management Board changed its position and stated that whilst still supporting the development, it was looking at options in case of the failure of the project. The Fire Brigades' Union had raised an Early Day Motion calling for a cessation of the project. A rally had been held in London on 21 October 2009, in respect of this issue and other matters.

It was reported that the West Midlands had been added to the existing three first wave regions, North East, South West and East Midlands. Any three of the four could go live or, if ready, all four could go live at the same time.

Members were informed of a number of recent developments within the project, including technical issues, scoping of TUPE options, contract negotiations, and the annual health check on the project by the Office for Government Commerce.

It was reported that a draft FiReControl Implementation funding circular had confirmed that first wave region fire authorities would receive a significant increase in their New Burden allocation for 2010/11.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the contents of the report be noted
- (2) the proposal to commence a Business Continuity Options Appraisal funded from the regional new burden grant be agreed and delegated to the Chief Officers' Board.
- (3) further reports be submitted as appropriate.

19. NEFRA (1) COLLABORATIVE PFI PROJECT – PROGRESS REPORT – CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Members were informed of progress of the NEFRA (1) Collaborative PFI Project Progress Report Construction Phase.

It was reported that the project was now three months into the construction phase. There had been some problems with the Tynemouth site, however, the land had now been stabilised and it was hoped that work would soon be back on schedule. The importance of liaising with the community was stressed and a copy of the liaison information attached for members' information. Members were also provided with a summary of the construction works and details of funder construction payments

Members were informed that a Management Group had been set up and met monthly with the Project Liaison Group.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the contents of the report be noted,
- (2) further updates be submitted as the project progresses through the construction phase

20. NEFRA (2) COLLABORATIVE PFI PROJECT, 4PS TRAINING MODULE AND DESIGN QUALITY INDICATOR (DQI) WORKSHOPS

Members received a report outlining the outcome of the 4ps training modules and the Design Quality Indicator (DQI) Briefing Workshop

It was reported that the first training module had been undertaken in August 2009 and had been very successful. The next module was due to take place on Friday 20 November, 2009.

With regard to the DQI process, two workshops had been held. The resulting reports had been sent to the Authorities involved and would be used as an important part of the bidding process.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the report be received
- (2) the implications and outcomes of the DQI Workshop be considered.
- (3) the 4ps Local Partnership's Training Module outcomes be considered.
- (4) the continuation of the Training Modules at relevant stages in the NEFRA 2 Project be approved.

21. RMB AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2008/09

Members received the audited statement of accounts for the Regional Management Board and were asked to approve the final audited accounts of 2008/09.

RESOLVED that

The final audited statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 and the Issues Arising Report submitted by the Auditor and the actions taken to address those issues be noted.

22. URGENT BUSINESS

Feedback from the RMB National Chairs Meeting in London

Brian Hesler informed Members that Councillor Brenda Forster had been appointed Chairman of the National RMB Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting. Representatives had agreed that meetings should be held more frequently and that meetings should have a guest speaker. A representative from Yorkshire and Humberside would be invited to attend the January 2010 meeting to discuss their success in obtaining funding for regional projects.

The National Chairs also agreed that LACC Boards should be supported and that it should be ensured that control staff were fully trained for the day that the LACC Boards go live. It was reported that the Essex Fire Authority had built a new headquarters without a control room, assuming that the LACC Board would be up and running. The existing control room would be maintained until this had happened.

The future of RMBs would be the subject of discussion nationally in the future.

RESOLVED

that the report be accepted.