

**YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITIES'
REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2005 AT
THE WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE HQ**

Present: **HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY**
Councillor D G Barkworth (Chair)
Councillor C Randall
Mr K Marshall
Mr S Rhodes

NORTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
Councillor J Morley
Councillor G Rennie
Mr N Hutchinson

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
Councillor J Andrews
Councillor J Bird
Mr M Smitherman
Mr C Bryce

WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
Councillor R Light
Councillor T McElroy
Councillor G P Kirkland
Mr S Pilling

Secretariat: Mr M G Barnes
Mrs N Houseman

Treasurer: Mr M Price

Members were reminded that all the agenda items would be dealt with on an urgent basis by authority of the chair as they could not admit of further delay due to the need to comply with time limits for consultation responses imposed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor P Scriven – South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Councillor D Travis – West Yorkshire Fire Authority
Mr P Toase – West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Mr E Clark – North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

55 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for consideration at the meeting.

56 ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

The meeting determined that there were no items which necessitated the exclusion of the public.

57 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in any matter under consideration at the meeting.

58 REGIONAL FIRE CONTROL

Members received a 10 minute presentation on behalf of the Fire Brigades' Union.

Outline Business Case

a) Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman which summarised the process which had been undertaken by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in the preparation and publication of the Fire Control Outline Business Case (OBC).

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

b) The Treasurer submitted a report which provided an analysis of the OBC for the Regional Control Centre project. A copy of OBC (with figures included in the text) had been circulated together with the agenda for Members' information.

It was further reported that correspondence had been received from the ODPM both in response to a letter sent at the request of Members at the conclusion of the 13 January 2005 meeting and one addressed to the Chair of the RMB. Members were circulated with a copy of the responses which set out the purpose of the OBC and re-affirmed the relevant deadlines for response together with more specific funding information.

Members expressed their extreme disquiet with the proposals and unanimously,

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) be advised that the Yorkshire and Humberside Fire Authorities' Regional Management Board (RMB) does support the principle of the modernisation of fire control rooms;
- (ii) That the RMB accepts that this modernisation may mean a reduction from the 44 control rooms operating at present;
- (iii) That the RMB does not accept that the Outline Business Case (OBC), as currently presented, is achievable financially and practically and it calls upon the ODPM to withdraw the present proposals and the OBC and to re-consult with fire authorities and representative bodies and so bring forth new proposals for FireControl in the U.K.;
- (iv) That, if the ODPM determine to proceed with the regional control centre proposal on the current basis, then the RMB requests the ODPM to:
 - confirm that this proposal provides the optimum protection and service for residents, businesses and visitors and that it will not place firefighters at any greater risk than is currently the case
 - agree with the RMB the optimum arrangements for delivering financial and organisational governance of the regional control room (RCC) to be located within this region
 - confirm that additional costs incurred by individual Fire and Rescue Authorities resulting from the national elements of this project will be met in full by ODPM
 - protect the financial, personnel and property interests of the constituent authorities, and
 - ensure equitable treatment of all staff employed by the constituent authorities affected by these changes ie. they are treated no differently from staff in any other area or region.

Finance and Governance arrangements

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Secretary and Treasurer to the Board which invited Members to consider the future governance arrangements for regional control centres.

Members were advised of the three options for governance as offered for consideration by the ODPM as follows;

- lead authority
- company limited by shares
- company limited by guarantee

RESOLVED

That the Yorkshire and Humberside Fire Authorities' Regional Management Board unanimously supports the principle of a lead authority approach to governance of the proposed regional control room.

Chair