

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

**MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2005 AT  
WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS,  
BIRKENSHAW**

Present: **HUMBERSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Councillor C Randall  
Councillor N Sherwood

**NORTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Councillor E Broadbent  
Councillor J Morley

**SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Councillor J Andrews  
Councillor J Bird  
Councillor P Scriven

**WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Councillor G Beaver  
Councillor P M Harrand (for items 1 – 8 and 10 only, Min nos 19 – 26 and  
28 refer)  
Councillor M Khan (for items 7 – 14 only, Min nos. 25 to 32 refer)  
Councillor R Light

Secretariat: Mr M G Barnes  
Mrs N Houseman

Treasurer : Mr M Price

|                 |                 |                           |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| In attendance : | Mr F Duffield   | Humberside                |
|                 | Mr K Marshall   | Humberside                |
|                 | Mr N Hutchinson | North Yorkshire           |
|                 | Mr C Anderson   | North Yorkshire           |
|                 | Mr A Trowsdale  | North Yorkshire           |
|                 | Mr S Swarbrick  | South Yorkshire           |
|                 | Mr M Davis      | South Yorkshire           |
|                 | Mr P Toase      | West Yorkshire            |
|                 | Mr K Arbuthnot  | West Yorkshire            |
|                 | Mr S Pilling    | West Yorkshire            |
|                 | Mr M Redfearn   | West Yorkshire            |
|                 | Ms J Freeman    | ODPM, FireControl project |
|                 | Ms M Winckler   | ODPM, FireControl project |

**19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were presented to the meeting.

**20 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Board at a meeting held on 21 July 2005 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**21 URGENT ITEMS**

None

**22 ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC**

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

**23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**24 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD CHAIRS' MEETING**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of a meeting of the Local Government Association Regional Management Board Chairs' meeting held on 20 September 2005 be received.

**25 REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD – PROGRESS REPORT - OVERVIEW**

Consideration was given to a report of the Secretary which advised of progress made within the region against the six nationally set objectives for the Regional Management Board as identified in the National Framework Document.

Members were advised that all the regional projects had either been achieved or were on target to be achieved.

**RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

## **STRATEGIC FUNCTIONS – UPDATE**

### **RESOLVED**

That all future reports on the six strategic functions include a section for Member Champion comment.

#### **26 Resilience**

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer (West Yorkshire) submitted a report which provided an update on the issue of regional resilience and specifically on the following areas;

- New Dimension programme funding
- Hazardous Materials and Unidentified Substance Incidents (Hazmat)
- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) – roll-out expected late 2005
- High Volume Pumping – five Pumps based at Harrogate, deployment information attached at Appendix 1
- Command and Control – agreement due to be signed by Minister and control centre due to commence operation in 2006
- Operational logistics
- Civil Contingencies Act Part 1
- Management of resilience within the region – close monitoring required to ensure no overlap with other national workstreams

### **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

#### **27 Specialist (Common) Services**

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Officer of Humberside Fire and Rescue Service advising of the progress made by the Common Services Sub Group in the following areas;

- Information technology
- Fire Safety
- Fire Investigation – including level III mobilising criteria (adopted as best practice at a national level)

Members were advised that an amended Strategy and Terms of Reference for the Sub Group had been proposed for Member approval.

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the report be noted;

- (ii) That the Website Content Protocol be approved as detailed at appendix B to the report now submitted;
- (iii) That further work be undertaken on the design of the website with a view to making it more “customer friendly”;
- (iv) That approval be given to the amended Common Services Sub-group Strategy and Terms of Reference as attached at Appendix C; and
- (v) That the framework for Fire Investigation across the Yorkshire and Humberside Region, as outlined in Appendix E, be approved for implementation.

## 28 **Regional Control Rooms**

### ODPM presentation

The Chair welcomed Ms Marie Winckler to the meeting who had agreed to attend, as representative of the ODPM national FireControl project, to provide Members with an update of its progress.

Members were provided with some detail with regard to the progress made on the following issues;

- Technical and electronic contracts
- Employment – discussions ongoing with employers’ organisations
- National legal working group
- Appointment of the project’s Head of Communications (Ian Evans)
- Establishment of (regional) Member briefing meetings
- Business case – indicative at this stage and final version to be published after the infraservices contracts have been let in 2006
- Benefits management - not necessarily cash savings, national roll-out due June 2006
- Activities not “in scope” for Regional Control Rooms

Members continued to express their grave concerns about the status of the Business Case and, more specifically, with the fact that figures contained therein were still only indicative. They expressed their extreme disquiet with the fact that the constituent authorities worked within tight financial constraints which were only exacerbated by the lack of information with regard to the impact of the establishment of the Regional Control Centre.

### Regional Control rooms – update

The Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer of the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service submitted a report which advised Members of the status of the FireControl project and which sought approval for a proposed communications strategy.

Members were advised of the local issues relating to;

- Procurement of technical solution – each constituent authority would be required to cooperate with the 3 national bidders during November 2005
- Organisational design – the Human Resources workstream would be addressing the issues of possible redundancies, redeployment opportunities, staffing arrangements and shift patterns, recruitment and selection
- Firelink – this project had slipped by six months, anticipated that contract would be awarded mid-November
- Communications strategy – it was proposed that all press notices regarding the Control Room would require prior approval from the Chair of the RMB
- Site visit – likely to be April 2006
- Cut-over order of West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Humberside and North Yorkshire

There remained a number of unresolved items which were detailed at paragraph 4.2 of the report now submitted.

### Governance

The Secretary and Treasurer to the Board submitted a joint report which advised of the receipt of a request from ODPM with regard to the governance arrangements for the Regional Control Centre.

Following the earlier consultation process when this RMB advised the ODPM that its preferred option for governance of the new Regional Control Centre was the lead authority model, Members were advised that the preference of the ODPM was to establish a local authority company. The RMB were now being invited by the Minister responsible to re-consider its original decision and to submit a response by 31 October.

Members repeated earlier concerns about the establishment of a local authority company in terms of legal and financial liability issues and the lack of appropriate detailed information upon which governance decisions could be taken.

**RESOLVED**

- i) That the Board declines to revisit its previous conclusion to support a lead authority model to run the new Regional Control Centre until the next meeting of the Board after such time as the ODPM provide copies of the proposed draft memorandum of association and articles of agreement for such a company and provides further detailed guidance on financial, taxation, legal and constitutional issues relating to the operation of such a company;
- ii) That a letter be forwarded to the ODPM in respect of (i) above; and
- iii) That the Regional Communications Strategy as detailed in the report now submitted be approved.

**29 Procurement**

Members considered a report of the Director of Support Services (South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service) which provided an update with regard to national procurement issues as follows;

- launch of the National Procurement Strategy at the Fire 2005 Conference in early November
- the creation of a national body, FireBuy Limited
- the current status of the Integrated Clothing Project
- work of the Yorkshire and Humberside Procurement Working Group

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the report be noted; and
- (ii) That a report be submitted to the January 2006 meeting of the Board advising of the implications for the region of the National Procurement Strategy.

**30 Training**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service which updated Members on the Training function and specifically on the following issues;

- Draft National Learning and Development Strategy – response submitted on behalf of the region (detailed at annex 1)

- Strategic Incident Command Development
- Supervisory Manager Practical Incident Command training
- Firefighter Development Programme

## RESOLVED

- (i) That the report be noted;
- (ii) That the result of the options appraisal for Strategic Incident Command Development be submitted to the January 2006 meeting of the Board.;
- (iii) That the response submitted on behalf of the Regional Management Board to the consultation document “Draft National Fire and Rescue Service Learning and Development Strategy for England” and Fire Service Circular 25 – 2005 be noted; and
- (iv) That, in respect of possible cross-over of responsibilities for the Training function with IPDS and Human Resources, a project management report be submitted to the next meeting of the Board.

## 31 Personnel and HR Management

The Director of Human Resources at West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service submitted a report which advised of the collaborative work which had been undertaken with respect to Personnel and HR Management issues since the date of the last meeting.

It was reported that work had been progressed on the following issues;

- substantive move from Rank to Role – regional discussions for single model
- assessment and development centres – group established to assess implications for the region
- collaboration on National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ's) – work commenced on identification of common areas
- Regional Control Centres – meetings taken place with Principal Fire Control Operators to discuss concerns.
- duty to promote disability and gender
- regional recruitment – Firefighter selection tests available for validation by Brigades

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the report be noted; and
- (ii) That recommendations related to the implications of the establishment of Assessment and Development Centres be submitted to the next meeting of the Board.

**32 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED**

That the next meeting of the Yorkshire and Humberside Fire Authorities' Regional Management Board be held on Thursday 12 January 2006 at the offices of the South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat, Barnsley.

Chair