

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

9 November 2009

Present:-

Councillors Hughes OBE (Devon & Somerset)(Chairman), Gordon & Healey (Devon & Somerset), Walker (Avon), Kennedy (Cornwall, Windsor-Clive (Gloucestershire) and Brig. Hall (Wiltshire)

Attending in accordance with Standing Order 3:

Councillors Boyd & Gribble (Devon & Somerset), Wren (Wiltshire)

Apologies:-

Councillors Bulteel (Dorset) and Roberts (Avon).

RMB/18. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 30 September 2009 be signed as a correct record.

RMB/19. Declarations of Interest

Board Members were invited to consider items to be discussed as part of this meeting and declare any **personal/personal and prejudicial interests** they may have in any item(s) in accordance with their respective appointing Authority's approved Code of Conduct.

At this stage Councillors Healey and Brig. Hall declared personal but non-prejudicial interests in the Workstreams Highlight Report and the Budget Options report, in so far as these related to the FiReControl/Regional Control Centre project, by virtue of their being a local authority Director (Cllr. Healey) and an Alternate Director (Brig. Hall) on the board of South West Fire Control Ltd., the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) established to exercise overall governance responsibilities for the South West Regional Control Centre.

(SEE ALSO MINUTES RMB/20 AND RMB/23 BELOW)

RMB/20. Workstreams Highlight Report

(Councillors Healey and Brig. Hall declared personal but non-prejudicial interests in this item, in so far as it related to the FiReControl/Regional Control Centre project, by virtue of their being a local authority Director (Cllr. Healey) and an Alternate Director (Brig. Hall) on the board of South West Fire Control Ltd., the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) established to exercise overall governance responsibilities for the South West Regional Control Centre).

The Board considered a report of the Regional Programme Manager (RMB/09/24) on progress since the last meeting of the Board on:

- those projects being supported by the South West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (SW RIEP), specifically:
 - an extension of the regional benchmarking/equality and diversity project;

- a survey to determine lessons learned from the 2008 Local Area Agreement round;
 - development of a regional website;
 - a regional fleet options review;
 - a regional operational policies review;
 - a new e-recruitment project; and
 - an Early Learning Fire Safety (ELFS).
- a summary of progress made since the last meeting of the Board by those workstreams addressing the following issues on a regional basis:
 - Community Safety;
 - Equality and Diversity;
 - Finance and Procurement;
 - Human Resources Management and Development;
 - Regional Control Centre;
 - Strategic Planning (Performance Management); and
 - Service Operations and Resilience.

Appended to the report was a summary of “red” milestones against the projects together with an indication of the action to be taken to resolve this. The regional programme of collaboration risk register had been reviewed and updated to reflect the current position.

RESOLVED that the progress of workstreams and the programme of work supported by the South West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (SW RIEP), as indicated in report RMB/09/24, be noted.

(SEE ALSO MINUTE RMB/19 ABOVE AND RMB/21 BELOW)

RMB/21. Regional Climate Change Strategy - Progress Report

The Board considered a report of the Secretary, South West Chief Fire Officers’ Association (RMB/09/25), together with a presentation by Regional Programme Manager and the Regional Climate Change Project Leader, on progress between south west fire and rescue services in formulating their carbon management plans. The report and presentation addressed the international, national, local and operational drivers behind production of carbon management plans and indicated that the south west FRSs had been successful in securing inclusion in the Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management (LACM) programme. This focussed on helping each participant create a convincing, affordable and achievable plan for reducing carbon emissions from their operations.

The Carbon Trust provided, amongst other things, a standard template for Carbon Management Plans and the intention was for each fire and rescue service to utilise this to produce a first draft Plan by mid-December and a final Plan for submission for approval to the Trust and individual fire and rescue authority by the end of March 2010.

To date, each fire and rescue service had determined a baseline for its energy and fuel usage, using a toolkit provided by the Carbon Trust tailored for use by fire and rescue services. All south west fire and rescue services had set an aspirational target to reduce, via a number of projects, carbon emissions by 30% by 2013/14 compared to 2008/09. This target would be refined as the individual Plans were developed.

RESOLVED that the progress on collaboration between south west fire and rescue services in formulating their carbon management plans, as outlined in report RMB/09/25 and in the presentation to the Board, be noted.

RMB/22. Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act, namely information relating to individuals; which is likely to reveal the identity of the individuals concerned; and which relates to the financial affairs of those individuals.

RMB/23. Budget Options 2010/11 - Bridging the Gap

(An item taken in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during which the press and public were excluded).

(Councillors Healey and Brig. Hall declared personal but non-prejudicial interests in this item, in so far as it related to the FiReControl/Regional Control Centre project, by virtue of their being a local authority Director (Cllr. Healey) and an Alternate Director (Brig. Hall) on the board of South West Fire Control Ltd., the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) established to exercise overall governance responsibilities for the South West Regional Control Centre).

The Board considered a report of the Secretary, South West Chief Fire Officers' Association (RMB/09/26) on budget issues for the Board to consider in light of the current economic position and given that external sources of funding had by and large ceased. In light of this, the Executive Management Group (comprising South West Chief Fire Officers) had considered a number of options for the Board's 2010/11 budget and had expressed the view that individual fire and rescue contributions to this budget should, ideally, be reduced or at the least frozen in cash terms at the current level. This would require minimum savings of £69,000 to be realised and the report put forward a number of options to secure this.

Following a debate on the issue, officers proposed revised recommendations to clarify the proposals as contained in the report. The revised recommendations were duly **MOVED** by Cllr. Walker and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Brig. Hall upon which it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that a budget for 2010/11 be prepared on the basis of reductions in individual fire and rescue authority contributions for determination at the next meeting of the Board;
- (b) that, to facilitate (a) above, the recommendations as set out in Sections 3 to 6 inclusive of report RMB/09/26 be approved in principle;

- (c) that a Member-led task and finish group, comprising the Board Chairman (Cllr. Hughes OBE) together with Councillors Healey and Kennedy together with appropriate officer support (to include the Clerk and two Chief Fire Officers [to be determined]) be established to consider future governance arrangements for regional collaboration with the aim of realising efficiencies, with the Group to report back to a future meeting of the Board;
- (d) that a decision on the appointment of elected Member champions for workstreams be deferred pending the outcome of the above-mentioned task and finish group;
- (e) that the Regional Business Plan 2010/11 be drafted to reflect the outcome of the above-mentioned task and finish group and be submitted to the March 2010 meeting of the Board for consideration with a view to approval.

(SEE ALSO MINUTE RMB/19 ABOVE).

The meeting started at 11.00hours and finished at 12.32hours