



Report

Report number/reference: GW	Date issued: 18th July 2007
Agenda Item: 7	Date of Meeting: 26th July 2007
This report is: For Decision	Meeting Venue: Shire Hall, Warwick
This report is: To ask the Board to agree governance arrangements for 2007/08	
Report Status: This report asks the Board to approve the governance arrangements for 2007/08.	




Report Title:

Governance Arrangements 2007/08

Report Authors:	
Sue Phelps Clerk to the Regional Management Board	
Circulated to:	Please forward to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMRMB 	

Summary:
This report sets out the existing governance arrangements for the West Midlands Regional Management Board and highlights areas that need review or confirmation by the Board.

- Recommendation(s):**
1. That the governance arrangements approved by the Board on 5th June, 2006 [Minute No 22/06] be confirmed;
 2. That the Programme Board be reconstituted for 2007/08 with the same membership and terms of reference as in 2006/07;
 3. That the Board appoints elected members to serve as Senior Responsible Owners for thematic project boards for 2007/08;
 4. That the Programme Manager be authorised to amend the Programme Plan 2006/08 and any other relevant documents to reflect any decisions made at this meeting.

For further information, please contact:	
Georgina Wythes	 0121 569 3791
Democratic Services Unit	 0121 569 3182
Sandwell Council House, P.O. Box	 georgina_wythes@sandwell.gov.uk
2374, Oldbury, West Midlands	
B69 3DE	

1. Background Details:

General

- 1.1 Members will recall that the five constituent Fire Authorities made an agreement relating to the Constitution and Standing Orders of the West Midlands Regional Management Board which came into effect on 1st April 2004.
- 1.2 The Regional Management Board [RMB] at its meeting on 5th June, 2006 [Minute No 22/06] approved a document setting out its governance and organisation arrangements. No substantive changes are proposed to the governance arrangements in 2007/08. The Board is reminded that its acts, proceedings and recommendations have to be endorsed by each constituent Fire Authority. Each Fire Authority has an emergency decision making process that is utilised where RMB decisions need to be implemented as a matter of urgency.

Programme Board

- 1.3 The RMB at its Annual Meeting in May 2004 established a Programme Board to provide senior level sponsorship of the regional modernisation programme in relation to investment decisions and the rationale and objectives for the Programme. The Programme Board was established as a member/officer working group comprising the Chairs of the constituent Fire Authorities, advised by the five Chief Fire Officers and supported by the Programme Office. The Programme Board has no delegated powers and its recommendations are submitted to the full RMB for approval. As a working group, meetings of the Programme Board are not subject to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 in relation to access to information or admission of the public and press.

It is recommended that the Programme Board be reconstituted for 2007/08 with the same membership and terms of reference as in 2006/07.

Senior Responsible Owners

- 1.4 Elected members currently serve as Senior Responsible Owners [SROs] for thematic project boards as indicated in the table below. As Chairs of constituent Fire Authorities sit on the Programme Board that oversees progress of the thematic project boards, it is not appropriate for them to act as SROs [with the exception of Fire Control Project Board where the Chair of the RMB is ex-officio SRO].

The Board is asked to review these appointments in the light of any changes in membership of the Board and to confirm, or make fresh, appointments, as necessary. Training will be arranged for new SROs and new Board members as appropriate.

Thematic Project Board	Senior Responsible Owner 2006/07
Fire Safety	Decommissioned
Performance	Decommissioned
Procurement	Cllr Chattaway [Warks]
Resilience	Decommissioned
Fire Control	Chair of the RMB
Resources	Vacancy vice Cllr Morgan [Shropshire]
Response	Vacancy vice Cllr Stockley [Staffs]

Amendment of the Programme Plan

1.12 The Programme Plan 2006/08 will need to be updated to reflect any changes in membership and governance arrangements.

It is recommended that the Programme Manager be authorised to amend the Programme Plan 2006/08 and any other relevant documents to reflect any decisions made at this meeting.

2. Legal Implications:

2.1 The RMB is a joint committee under Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972. The obligations of the constituent fire authorities and various other provisions are set out in a formal Agreement and Standing Orders.

3. Financial Implications:

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4. Background Papers:

Agreement dated 30th March 2004 between the five constituent Fire Authorities.

5. Attachments:

None