



## Report

Report number/reference: <b>RMB/SGW</b>	Date issued: <b>19<sup>th</sup> October 2007</b>
Agenda Item: <b>8</b>	Date of Meeting: <b>25<sup>th</sup> October 2007</b>
This report is: <b>For decision</b>	Meeting Venue: <b>Sandwell Council House, Oldbury</b>
Report Status: To advise the Board of proposals to review current WMRMB arrangements and make preparations for the publication of a new WMRMB Programme Plan to meet the requirements of the next National Framework.	

Report Title:

### ***WMRMB Programme Plan 2008-11***

Report Author:

Steve Worrall  
WMRMB Programme Manager

Circulated to:

- WMRMB

Please forward to:

Summary:

The *Fire and Rescue Service National Framework* documents stipulate that fire and rescue authorities, working through regional management boards, must have clear aims and objectives; and delegated powers that are appropriate to those aims and objectives to secure delivery of the Framework's requirements (where applicable). WMRMB fulfill this stipulation through the publication and administration of a modernisation programme plan.





This paper sets out proposals to review current progress, governance arrangements and preparations to address the requirements of the new Framework (*when issued*).

Recommendation(s):

WMRMB is requested to:

Approve the undertaking of a review of current WMRMB arrangements, together with the new Framework, reporting back to the Programme Board on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008 with preliminary recommendations, followed by a final report (*together with a new programme plan*) to the WMRMB meeting scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

For further information, please contact:

Steve Worrall		01743 260204
WMRMB Programme Manager		07967 465813
(Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service)		01743 260268
		steve.worrall@shropshirefire.gov.uk

## 1. Background Details:

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 (Part 3 Section 21) places a statutory responsibility upon the Secretary of State to prepare a Fire and Rescue National Framework that:

- must set out priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities in connection with the discharge of their functions;
- may contain guidance to fire and rescue authorities in connection with the discharge of any of their functions;
- may contain any other matter relating to fire and rescue authorities or their functions that the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

The Secretary of State must keep the terms of the Framework under review and may from time to time make revisions to it. Whilst subject to confirmation, it is envisaged that the next Framework will be for the period 2008 to 2011 (three years). A draft Framework is due for circulation and consultation in the near future (circa mid-November 2007).

The Act also states that - '*Fire and rescue authorities must have regard to the Framework in carrying out their functions.*'

The current 2006-08 National Framework stipulates that fire and rescue authorities (FRAs), working through regional management boards, must have clear aims and objectives; and delegated powers that are appropriate to those aims and objectives to secure delivery of the Framework's requirements (where applicable). WMRMB fulfill this stipulation for the publication and administration of a modernisation programme plan.

This paper sets out proposals to review current progress, governance arrangements and preparations to address the requirements of the new Framework (*when issued*).

With the consent of WMRMB, it is proposed to undertake review of the outcomes delivered against the objectives set out within the region's current WMRMB Programme Plan 2006-08. This review will seek to establish stakeholder satisfaction with the progress achieved, and identify any outstanding areas of work that should be carried forward for inclusion within region's future programme plan.

Working with key regional stakeholders, the draft National Framework 2008-11 will be reviewed to determine proposals for inclusion within the within region's future programme plan. At this preliminary stage, it is expected that many of the objectives presented within the new Framework will have already been addressed by this region during the period 2006-08. To assess the effectiveness of current governance and partnership working arrangements it is proposed to undertake a review of existing arrangements using the ODPM - *Partnership Assessment Tool* (appended). The results of this exercise will be used to influence the proposed WMRMB governance arrangements for the period 2008-11.

It is envisaged that scope exists to develop a more focused and compact regional programme plan, requiring fewer resources and less governance than that currently experienced to manage the delivery of outcomes against agreed objectives. This is likely to result in fewer meetings and lower FRA financial contributions to WMRMB.

Subject to agreement, it is proposed to commence the review in November and report back to the WMRMB Programme Board on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008 with preliminary recommendations, with a final report and programme plan presented to the WMRMB meeting scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

---

**2. Financial Implications:**

---

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**3. Background Papers:**

---

There are no background papers to this report.

**4. Attachments:**

---

ODPM (2003). *Assessing Strategic Partnership - The Partnership Assessment Tool*

---