



Report

Notes of the WMRMB Programme Board

Thursday, 13th December, 2007, at 10.30 am
New Meadow Stadium, Shrewsbury

Present:

Cllr Len Bloomer	Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire Authority
Cllr Brigadier Jones	Hereford & Worcester Combined Fire and Rescue Authority [Chair];
Cllr Richard Hobbs	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Peter Howard	West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority
Cllr Stuart West	Shropshire
Paul Hayden	CFO Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service
Frank Sheehan	CFO West Midlands Fire & Rescue Service
Alan Taylor	CFO Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service
Lynda Bateman	Treasurer
Mike Griffiths	West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service
Louise Goodhead	Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
Stephnie Hancock	Sandwell MBC
Andy Johnson	Acting Programme Risk Manager
Chris Juckes	Warwickshire County Council
Ray Kings	Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service
Sue Phelps	Clerk
Sian Stroud	Warwickshire County Council
Tina Thomas	Government Office West Midlands
Steve Worrall	Programme Manager

Visitors

John Curtis	Government Office West Midlands
Henrick Hansen	Falck
Jenny Massey	Sandwell MBC
Katie Marsh	Government Office West Midlands

Action by

33/07 Apologies

Apologies were received from:
Cllr Davis; Chief Fire Officers Brown and Doig.

34/07 Minutes

The notes of the meeting held on 28th September, 2007, were received as a correct record of the meeting.

35/07 Matters Arising

None.

36/07 Correspondence

None.

37/07 Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships

John Curtis, the Deputy Regional Director for Community Safety with Government Office West Midlands gave a presentation on the characteristics of effective partnerships in the context of Crime and Disorder Partnerships, and in particular the role of the fire service within these partnerships.

The six hallmarks were:-

- Empowered and effective leadership.
- Intelligence-led business processes.
- Effective and responsible delivery structures.
- Engaged communities.
- Visible and constructive accountability
- Appropriate knowledge and skills.

The hallmarks had been introduced to ensure that all partnerships were functioning to an acceptable level of performance, ensure that local communities were involved, increase accountability and enable communities to see the difference that effective partnerships could have in their area.

Each area was required to have a strategy group, responsible for formulating and implementing a strategy to tackle crime and disorder. As a responsible Authority, the Fire Service was required to be represented on the strategy group at an appropriate level of seniority. The Fire Service also had a responsibility to share de-personalised information on a quarterly basis.

By 1st April 2008, all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships should have:-

- Prepared a strategic assessment.
- Ensured senior representation on the partnership.
- Shared information between partners.
- Consulted communities.
- Published a Partnership Plan.

The hallmarks were considered to be a tool to assist partnerships in addressing issues of performance and improve delivery and not just as a tick-box exercise.

35/07 WMRMB Thematic Project Boards – Progress Review

Representatives of the various thematic project boards submitted progress reports.

[a] Procurement

Mike Griffiths presented the report on behalf of the Procurement Thematic Project Board

[b] Fire Control

Ray Kings presented the report on behalf of the Fire Control Thematic Project Board.

Representative bodies had now been invited to engage with the regional project. Regular briefings were being held for the Directors of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Services Regional Control Centre Limited (LACC), and appointments had been made to the posts of Regional Control Centre Director and Human Resources Adviser. Other professional support continued to be provided by officers of the Project Board.

The LACC was not able to operate formally until the Members' Agreement was signed. This needed to be finalized as soon as possible so that formal decisions could be made on human resources issues.

Cutover dates had been revised because of slippage in the programme. It was now anticipated that Fire and Rescue Services in the region would cut over to the Regional Control Centre between January and September 2010.

Practical completion of the Regional Control Centre was on schedule for 20th December, 2007, for occupation in the new year by the Regional Team.

36/07 Regional Control Centre Cost Apportionment Model

Members considered a report of the Programme Accountant setting out a summary of research undertaken by Warwick University to produce fair, transparent and equitable cost apportionment arrangements in respect of the West Midlands Regional Control Centre together with the views of the Regional Treasurers. The research provided a number of options for cost apportionment on which a model could be built, but also indicated that there was currently no consistent

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data collection within the region on which to base any model related to call volumes or incident responses.

Resolved to recommend:

- (1) that the population estimates used in grant settlement data for the constituent fire and rescue authorities be used as the initial cost apportionment measure for the Regional Control Centre;
- (2) that this measure be used for the next three years in order to assist medium term financial planning or until alternative an alternative cost apportionment model is agreed;
- (3) that each constituent authority be requested to agree common definitions for their activities and to collect relevant data on a consistent basis with effect from 1st April, 2008;
- (4) that the cost apportionment model be reviewed in due course in the light of an assessment of the data referred to in (3) above.

37/07 WMRMB FRS Lead Officer Progress Report

The Board noted the quarterly progress report of the Fire and Rescue Service Lead Officer for the period October to December 2007.

38/07 WMRMB FRS Lead Officer Report

The Fire and Rescue Lead Officer, Government Office West Midlands, reminded members that a part time Fire and Rescue Lead Officer post had been established for a period of one year with effect from 1st April, 2007.

Resolved that funding of this post from the WMRMB budget be discontinued with effect from 1st April, 2008.

39/07 Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008/11

The Programme Manager presented a summary of the key areas contained in the new National Framework document for 2008/11, particularly those areas impacting on the region.

Resolved that the Programme Manager prepare a regional response to the Government consultation on the new National Framework for consideration at the next meeting of the Regional Management Board.

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40/07 WMRMB Programme Risk Review

The Board noted the report of the Acting Programme Risk Manager and the contents of the Programme Risk Log.

41/07 Finance Review

The Board noted a report on spend to 30th September, 2007 against the approved budget allocation for 2007/08, and actual time spent on individual projects for the same period.

42/07 Leonardo da Vinci Project

Henrik Hansen of Falck and Steve Worrall presented a report on partnership work between Falck, the Danish rescue and safety company, and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service on the European Leonardo da Vinci Programme. This was a programme designed to support the professional development of staff through exposure to new and innovative working practices in the field of vocational fire and rescue training. Exchange visits involving staff and members had taken place between Shropshire FRS and a number of Falck operations across Europe. This was a good example of public private partnership that had produced benefits for both organisations and the individuals who had taken part in the programme.

43/07 WMRMB: 24th January, 2008

It was noted that the next meeting of the West Midlands Regional Management Board would be held on 24th January, 2008 (Host: Shropshire)

44/07 Date of next Programme Board meeting

13th March, 2008 at 10.30 am (Host: to be confirmed)

Meeting ended at 12.46 pm

*Contact Officer: Stephnie Hancock
Democratic Services Unit
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
0121-569 3189*