



## Report

Report number/reference: GW	Date issued: 21st July 2009
Agenda Item: 10	Date of Meeting: 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2009
This report is: <b>For Decision</b>	Meeting Venue: WMFS HQ
This report is: <b>To ask the Board to agree revised governance arrangements for 2009/10.</b>	
Report Status: This report sets out proposed governance arrangements for the Regional Management Board.	

Report Title:





### *Governance Arrangements 2009/10*

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Circulated to:	Please forward to:

- WMRMB

Summary:
To bring to the attention of the Board proposed governance arrangements for the West Midlands Regional Management Board for 2009/10.

Recommendation(s):
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the governance arrangements for the West Midlands Regional Management Board as set out in the Programme Plan 2009/10 be approved.</li> <li>2. That Mr Stuart Kellas, incoming Treasurer to the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority, be formally appointed as Treasurer to the West Midlands Regional Management Board with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2009.</li> <li>3. That the Programme Board be reconstituted for 2009/10 with the same membership and terms of reference as in 2008/09.</li> </ol>

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## 1. Background Details:

- 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. The agreement sets out the constitution of the Regional Management Board; provides that it will hold a minimum of four meetings per year, including an annual general meeting; and a set of standing orders is appended.
- 1.2 The draft Programme Plan for 2009/10 has been drawn up following discussions between Chairs of Constituent authorities and Chief Fire Officers with regard to a review of the operation of the WMRMB, in the light of the Audit Commission document 'Rising to the Challenge', which suggested that RMBs needed to be refocused or abolished. The draft Programme Plan retains a regional emphasis aligned to the regional business streams advocated by the Chief Fire Officers' Association but with a streamlined organisation and a reduction in meetings.

### **Programme Board**

- 1.3 The Programme Plan 2009/10 proposes that the WMRMB meets only once per annum [the AGM] to set the strategic direction and that the existing Programme Board meets on three further occasions during the year to provide governance and leadership for the modernisation 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. The Programme Board currently has no delegated powers and works within the parameters set out in the approved Programme Plan. 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 2009/10 with the same membership and terms of reference as in 2008/09.**

### **Treasurer**

- 1.4 The current Treasurer, Mrs Lynda Bateman, will be retiring from her post as Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services for Sandwell Council and Treasurer to the West Midlands Regional Management Board on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2009. Sandwell Council has indicated that the arrangement for the post to include the role of Treasurer to the Regional Management Board can continue. Mr Stuart Kellas has been appointed as Treasurer of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2009.

**It is recommended that Mr Kellas be formally appointed as Treasurer to the West Midlands Regional Management Board with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2009.**

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**2. Legal Implications:**

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- 2.1 The RMB is a joint advisory 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.

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**3. Financial Implications:**

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

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**4. Background Papers:**

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'WMRMB Governance and Organisation Arrangements' March 2006  
Draft Programme Plan 2009/10

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**5. Attachments:**

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None

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