

Minutes

Agenda Item 10

1st December 2006 at 2.15pm

Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority Headquarters,
Stone, Staffordshire

Special Meeting

Present:

Representing Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority

Councillors G Davis and Brigadier Jones;

Representing Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority

Councillors Hartin and Box;

Representing Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Fire Authority

Councillors Bloomer, D Davis and Stockley;

Representing Warwickshire County Council

Councillor Hobbs;

Representing West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillors Hinton and Hogarth.

Advisors:

Chief Fire Officer Brown (Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service);

Chief Fire Officer Doig (Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service);

Chief Fire Officer Hayden (Hereford and Worcester Fire and
Rescue Service);

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Raymond (Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service);

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Randeniya (West Midlands Fire Service).

Lynda Bateman (Treasurer);

Sian Stroud (on behalf of Legal Adviser);

Sue Phelps (Clerk) and Stephnie Hancock;

Steve Worrall (Programme Manager).

Observer:

Tina Thomas, Government Office West Midlands.

Apologies:

Councillors Eade and Eustace.

Chief Fire Officer Sheehan

58/06

**West Midlands Fire and Rescue Services Regional Control Centre Company
– final steps to establishing the company**

Further to Minute No. 49/06 (27th October 2006) the Board received the draft company documentation and a draft report to be submitted to FRAs in respect of the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) required to be established by the DCLG to manage the Regional Control Centre.

The Chairs of the constituent Fire Authorities had met again on 27th October 2006 to discuss the LACC formation and the Board was reminded of the key principles that had been agreed for inclusion in the memorandum and articles of association. Members were reminded that it was proposed to call the new company the West

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Midlands Fire and Rescue Services Regional Control Centre Limited. There was some discussion on this issue and it was proposed that the word 'Services' be removed from the title. This proposal was put to the vote and lost.

Members discussed the Chairmanship of the Company. It was agreed that the Chair would be appointed annually by a majority vote at a general meeting. It was also agreed that the initial Chair should be the Chair of the West Midlands RMB as opposed to the Chair of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.

The Treasurer reported that the Treasurers Working Group had recently met and discussed the various principles that may be considered for apportioning cost between the authorities. A detailed report on the implications of a number of alternative cost models would be prepared for consideration initially by the RMB before being submitted to individual FRAs for approval.

The Board questioned whether adequate indemnities had (already) been given by the respective FRAs to protect members participating as directors of the new company. The Legal Representative advised that this was a matter for individual FRAs but that she would be glad to assist the other members of the Regional Lawyers Group to review the indemnity arrangements in place in each Fire and Rescue Authority.

In relation to the appointment of alternate directors, the Board felt that this should be restricted to people that were eligible to sit as Fire and Rescue Authority directors and requested that paragraph 37 of the Articles be amended to reflect this.

The Legal Representative reported that the Company would be established in January 2007, subject to the approval of all FRAs in December 2006. The DCLG's external solicitors, Eversheds, would be asked to review the company documentation once the Members' Agreement was in place.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the Board endorses the recommendations and general terms of the template report to be taken to each FRA in December seeking approval for participation in the new company, subject to the following amendments:-
 - (i) that the initial Chair would be the Chair of the West Midlands RMB as opposed to the Chair of the FRA;
 - (ii) that the Chair be appointed annually by a majority vote at a general meeting;
 - (iii) the appointment of alternate directors being restricted to people that are eligible to sit as Fire and Rescue Authority directors, and the amendment of paragraph 37 of the Articles to reflect this.

- (2) that the final steps required to establish the company be approved;

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- (3) that Board notes the final work required to be undertaken once the company is established, to finalise the Members' Agreement, determine the principles of cost apportionment and support the implementation of the Regional Control Centre.

(Meeting ended at 2.57pm)

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