

New Dimension Long-Term Capability Management

Summary

1. This paper provides Members with an update on the New Dimensions project and transfer of assets

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Raise any outstanding issues that can then be fed into Communities and Local Government
2. To note the contents of the paper

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Introduction

1. The last briefing to the Committee was on the 14th July 2008. At that meeting, members were brought up to date on the current position with CLG's proposals to transfer ownership of some £200m of New Dimensions assets into FRA ownership.
2. Fire and Rescue Service Circular 16/2009 (**attached at annex a**) provided a summary of consultation responses with a revised version of the agreement for further comment, taking on board details and more general comments.

LGA Position

3. The LGA supports a sector led approach to managing and maintaining New Dimension assets that support national resilience. For Fire and Rescue Authorities this will ensure that ownership and control lies with those bodies charged with protecting their communities.
4. The LGA will continue to work in partnership with CFOA on the National Resilience Board to deliver a sector led approach to sustaining New Dimension capabilities into the future through the establishment of an assurance framework and body managed by CFOA through the FRS National Resilience Board and will also continue to ensure that New Dimensions assets are interoperable between FRAs
5. As detailed in FSC 32/2007, at the request of FRAs, CLG agreed to continue funding New Dimension through specific grants in the short-medium term. In line with Government and LGA policy, there is no intention to keep specific grants in the longer term where it is possible to add them to Revenue Support Grant. It is therefore expected that the case for transfer of these grants where possible into RSG in the next formula grant review will be further considered, at which point there will be a clear history of actual costs which the transfer could take into account.
6. The LGA encourages all Fire and Rescue Authorities to seek legal advice to satisfy themselves that any associated risk can be managed adequately before consenting to the transfer of New Dimensions assets.

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Financial Implications

7. The grant determination for each FRA can be found at **annex b**. There are no financial implications for the LGA.

Implications for Wales

8. There are no implications for Wales.

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