

National Resilience Arrangements

Decisions

Members are invited to note the update and support the recommendations detailed at Section 7.

Recommendations

The committee is recommended to:

- acknowledge and continue support for the excellent work undertaken developing the National Resilience Board and the extremely positive contribution made by the Local Government Association (2.2)
- note completion of three of the four workstreams managed throughout the transition process (2.4) and continue to support Fire and Rescue Authorities and other stakeholders to complete the asset transfer process that will complete the final (fourth) workstream (6.2).
- acknowledge the model employed to deliver transition to Fire and Rescue National Resilience and support its employment in future initiatives towards in-service management (3.6).

Action

LGA officers to action as appropriate.

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National Resilience Arrangements

Summary

1. The report is before the Committee to update Members on the current arrangements for assurance of National Resilience.

Background

2. Members will be aware of the arrangements put in place to deliver assurance of fire & rescue resilience arrangements to both Government and individual Fire & Rescue Authorities charged with delivering capabilities. The primary components of these arrangements are vested in the creation of the National Resilience Board (formerly known as the “Transition Board”) facilitated through a Memorandum of Understanding between CLG and a new business entity of CFOA known as CFOA National Resilience Ltd (CNR).
3. Membership of the Board includes primary stakeholders including CFOA, CLG, Firebuy, and representatives of each FRS capability. This committee provides invaluable representation and oversight on behalf of the LGA through Jeremy Hilton.
4. Members may recall the four workstreams by which transition to today’s “steady state” were delivered;
 - Assurance
 - Funding
 - Procurement
 - Ownership (Transfer Arrangements)
5. This report updates members on delivery of three of the workstreams with a brief update of ongoing activity within each and the current issues around the Transfer of ownership – the only outstanding element of Government’s desired final position.

Assurance

6. The new governance framework is complete and monitored by the National Resilience Board chaired by CFOA.
7. The Board currently oversees all activity within the capabilities, and provides:
 - a central secretariat (based at FSC, Moreton-in-Marsh),
 - a National Team (comprising 21 officers covering all of the 9 regions),

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- an ongoing training and exercise regime including central provision of all core training [and coordination of major exercises]
 - oversight of the maintenance and overhaul contract for all assets
 - a minor technical asset refresh programme.
8. The Boards activity is funded through an annual grant from CLG comprising of three components to deliver training, asset refresh and the national team. Financial management is provided through the offices of CFOA (NR) Ltd.
 9. The assurance process provides an annual report to Government detailing the state of readiness of each of the capabilities. The first such report is now being prepared and will be shared with this committee subject to CLG approval.
 10. In addition, the Board provides reports to FRS's on the state of their capabilities based on a programme of assurance visits to individual Services. The past year has seen a focus upon Mass Decontamination arrangements and has delivered assurance into each of the 9 regions on this subject. 2010/11 will see the focus shift to Urban Search and Rescue capabilities. This programme has been extremely well received by CFO's.
 11. As part of its review of in-service management, CLG's Fire & Rescue and Resilience Programme Board recently considered a "Transition Structure for Fire and Resilience Programme Assurance – FireControl and Firelink". In its deliberations, the programme board have acknowledged the pragmatic and joined-up solutions delivered by the National Resilience Board. As a result, CLG have requested that the National Resilience Board attend the newly formed "Transition Project Oversight Board" in an advisory capacity. This request is considered as testament to the results delivered through the governance, project management and assurance processes engaged but most specifically it is hoped that influence will be exercised around stakeholder engagement and inclusive communication.

Funding

12. Funding of the Assurance process has been agreed and is currently being delivered for the duration of the existing CSR. The MoU between CNR and CLG outlines "fall-away" arrangements for the Board in the unlikely event of funds not being sufficient to provide assurance to all parties.
13. Section 31 & 32 funding to FRA's continues on the level agreed through a series of Fire & Rescue Service Circulars over recent years. The level of funding is currently being maintained as per historical agreements for a range of elements including USAR crewing, consumables, local training for retained crews for Mass Decontamination and Enhanced Command Support.

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14. Central funding for the Maintenance and Overhaul contract continues although a small element of local charging is proposed to cover “at fault” damage caused to equipment when being used for FRS’s own purposes.
15. Authorities continue to be sensitive to future financial provision making repeated reference to the funding mechanism during recent consultations.

Procurement

16. The contract is now well established and receiving positive feedback from all FRS’s hosting vehicles and equipment. The Board holds monthly performance meetings with the prime contractor and monitors a suite of performance indicators on behalf of FRS’s. Close partnership with Firebuy also provides a level of assurance relating to the Boards activity around minor asset refresh whereby the contractor assists with the issue of replacement tools and equipment on an ongoing basis.

Transfer of Ownership

17. Fire & Rescue Service Circular 53/2009 announced CLG’s request for FRA’s to accept a transfer of function which would see ownership of all vehicles and equipment shifting to those authorities hosting them. This request has followed two extensive consultation programmes with services.
18. The Board has remained committed to the principle of transfer and continues to support FRA’s in obtaining sufficient information to enable them to ensure the provision of suitable information to enable them to analyse any impacts upon their own authority.
19. At the time of this report it is not possible to report the level of take-up as discussions between CLG and individual authorities expressing concerns continue. A verbal update will be made.

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