

Fire Modernisation Task Group - update to Safer Communities Board

Core Mission Statement:

The Fire Modernisation Task Group was set up as a short-life Group to aid LGA representatives in moving forward the modernisation agenda and to provide strategic and technical support to those same LGA representatives who represent the LGA at the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services.

Role:

- To drive forward the modernisation agenda and therefore improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the fire service, reducing deaths and injuries
- Help Fire Authorities make full use of the new freedoms and powers offered by the Fire Services Act 2004
- To succeed in championing LGA Fire Authority Member policy at the NJC
- To ensure Fire Authority interests are being represented

Current Key Objectives:

- A middle management NJC
- Trade Union recognition – Fire Officers Association (FOA)/Retained Firefighters Union (RFU) representation
- Arbitration – Solely by agreement
- FiRe Control (Lead Member Cllr Jerry Wilmott)

Activities/Issues:

- Closer working with ODPM & central Government – Regular updates and continued conversations with David Harper of the ODPM. Sharing of concerns enables joined up working between central and local government – a missing element pre-dispute
- Training & Development Support for Fire Authority Members (lead Member Cllr Liz Barron) – reviewing training and development support for fire & rescue authority Members. Based on the Integrated Personal Development System (IPDS) already developed for fire service personnel, but re-focussed to address the specific requirements for elected Members in co-operation with IDeA.

- FMTG & Regional Management Board (RMB) Away Day – discussed the many areas of mutual interest and identified how the FMTG and LGA can assist RMB's with any necessary LGA fire policy development
- e-Fire
- Fire Service Pensions (lead Member Cllr Fred Walker)

Future Meetings:

21 March 2005, Intended to hold future meetings at the rising of the Safer Communities Board

Membership:

Val Shawcross AM (Lab & Chair), Cllr Liz Barron (LibDem & Representative due to Chair of NJC), Cllr Les Bryom (Con), Cllr Anne Gallop (LibDem), Cllr John Thompson (Independent), Cllr Jerry Willmott (Con), Cllr Christina Jebb (LibDem), Cllr James Ashton (Lab) (Regional Management Board Representative)

Safer Communities Board:

The following 'initiating' information was forwarded by the Task Group to the Board for their approval in January 2005:

- a consolidated list of Fire Policy priorities;
- a revised list of LGA Fire Advisors; and
- a list of Fire Authorities' Outside Bodies elected Members' commitments.

Following further advice from Cllr Fred Walker, an updated LGA response and comments on the ODPM consultation paper on Pensions for the Fire Service was sent to the SCB lead Members for their approval in February.

LGA Fire & Rescue Service Member Representation:

- National Joint Council – Val Shawcross AM
- Principle Officers NJC – Val Shawcross AM
- ODPM FiReControl Project Board – Cllr Jerry Willmott
- Practitioners' Forum Control Project Sounding Board – Cllr Jerry Willmott
- NJC Regional Control Centres Working Party – Cllr James Ashton, Cllr Christina Jebb,
Cllr Les Byrom and Cllr Jerry Willmott
- New Dimension Management Board – Cllr Anne Gallop
- New Dimension Sounding Board – Cllr Anne Gallop
- ODPM e-Transformation Steering Group – Val Shawcross AM

- ODPM e-Fire Project Board – Val Shawcross AM
- Equality & Diversity Programme Group – Cllr Brian Coleman
- FireLink Programme Board – Cllr Fred Walker
- Pensions Project Board and the Provider & Supplier Group – Cllr Fred Walker
- IPDS Project Board – Cllr Jerry Willmott
- FireWorks Steering Committee – Cllr Graham Jackson