



5 November 2004

The East Midlands Regional Management Board - Your Fire and Rescue Services working together

The East Midlands regional management board (RMB) met again last week in Leicestershire to discuss progress on its various areas of works, all of which aim to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the five fire and rescue services in the East Midlands through working in partnership together.

There are now nine RMBs in the UK, whose job it is to promote regional co-operation in areas of the work of the fire and rescue service. Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire fire and rescue authorities and the fire and rescue services that they govern will be working more closely together than ever before.

Ten councillors comprise the East Midlands RMB, two from each of the fire and rescue authorities in the East Midlands. The Chairman of the RMB is Councillor James Aston from Northamptonshire County Council. The Vice Chair is Councillor Peter Roffey of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Fire Authority.

The government clearly laid out what the role of RMBs should be in their national framework 2004/2005 document.

There six specific areas of work which the RMB must oversee. They are:

- to integrate common and specialist services - this includes fire investigation
- to put in place effective resilience plans for large scale emergencies
- to introduce regional personnel and human resources functions
- to establish regional control centres
- to introduce a regional procurement - the purchasing of a wide range of goods and services
- to develop a regional approach to training

The RMB is advised and supported by the five chief fire officers in the region and each fire and rescue service is taking a lead role on a particular area of work.

Coun James Ashton, said: "It makes absolute sense that across the East Midlands we should work together in areas such as recruitment and training, procurement and fire investigation. This will ensure consistent high standards and procedures across the whole of East Midlands.

"We also have a duty to make sure that in the event of any major incident that we are prepared - so it's vitally important that we all work together to share our expertise and resources for the good of the East Midlands as a whole as well as for individual cities and counties.

"There is a huge amount of work to do over the next few years, but we are confident that we will succeed in meeting the objectives laid down by the Government."

Ends

For further information please contact Marie Ensor at Notts County Council press office on 0115 977 4918.