



17 June 2005

New leadership for the East Midlands Regional Management Board

The East Midlands Regional Management Board (RMB) held their first AGM at Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service's Headquarters yesterday (Thursday 16 June). Following local government elections there were many new faces on the board and a new Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Ten councillors comprise the East Midlands RMB, two from each of the Fire and Rescue Authorities in the East Midlands. The new Chairman of the RMB is Councillor Peter Roffey (the former vice chairman) of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Fire Authority. The Vice Chairman is Councillor Darrell Pulk from the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority.

The aim of the board is 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.

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.

Councillor Roffey, said: "I am very pleased to the new Chair of the East Midlands Regional Management Board. Under the leadership of Coun James Ashton last year the RMB made a promising start."

"There is a lot of work for the RMB in the year ahead. We are expecting the Government's announcement on where the new regional control centre will be in the near future. This will end a long period of uncertainty for many of our control room staff. Following the announcement, the

RMB has a great deal of detailed work to do to ensure that the new centre provides a good working environment for our staff and the same high level of service to the people of the East Midlands."

Ends

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