



MEDIA RELEASE

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East Mids Fire Services join new partnership

East Midlands Fire and Rescue Authorities have signed up to some ambitious targets in order to improve their performance. They have also joined a new regional partnership which will administer government grants to improve services in local communities.

The East Midlands Regional Management Board (EMRMB) and all five fire and rescue services in the East Midlands (Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire) have signed up to the East Midlands Improvement Partnership. This body is made up of all the councils, fire and rescue authorities and governmental agencies in the region. It will award grants to help fire and rescue authorities and local councils improve the way they deliver services and has a pot of over £3.5m to spend by 2008. The money is from the Government's Capacity Building Fund which aims to help authorities make improvements in their performance by sharing knowledge and expertise.

All five fire and rescue services are also aiming to meet the following targets:

- For 15% of their firefighters to be women by 2009
- For 9% of their firefighters to be from ethnic minority background by 2009
- to improve their comprehensive performance assessment scores
- to improve residents satisfaction with their services at a faster rate than the national average
- to reduce sickness absence levels
- to work more closely with other agencies to deliver services

Chair of the EMRMB, Coun Peter Roffey said: " The five fire and rescue services in our region are already working together to become more efficient and effective. We have been set some challenging targets by the Government and our regional partners, but we will support each other to try and achieve those targets and improve the service we provide to tax payers in the region."

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