

DRAFT RESPONSE TO CLG
FIRE CONTROL TRANSITION GOVERNANCE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Further to the document “Fire Control Project – Transition Governance, Roles and Responsibilities” dated 4th April, 2007 the Authority responds as follows :-

1. The Authority acknowledges that it is reasonable to seek acknowledgement/ acceptance of roles and responsibilities in respect of the various entities.
2. The Authority has, in conjunction with other Authorities in the NW Region, and the NW Fire & Rescue Management Board (NWF&RMB) put into place arrangements which will enable FRA’s and the NWF&RMB to deliver and assure fire control preparations within the Authority.
3. The Authority has not determined a single point of accountability for delivery and assurance of fire control preparations within the Authority, as the corporate body of the Authority will continue to be accountable as a whole for this element of the project as part of its wider statutory function to make arrangements for call handling and mobilisation services.

However, the Authority has nominated xxxxxxx as the single point of contact for delivery and assurance of fire control preparations within the Authority. That person will be responsible for liaising with the Corporate Leadership Team, the Authority and its elected members, and the NWF&RMB and is a member of the Regional Project Team.

4. The Authority has not determined a single point of accountability for delivery and assurance of fire control preparations within the region – as the Authority itself does not have the power to determine who will be accountable for provision of call handling and mobilisation services for fire services in areas outside of the Authority’s area.

However, a regional project director has been appointed, (i.e. the Chief Fire Officer of Cheshire Fire & Rescue Authority), who will act as a single point of contact with CLG, the regional project team and the NWF&RMB.

5. The Authority has not determined that a specific director of the proposed Regional Control Company is to be the single point of accountability for delivery and assurance of fire control preparations within the region as :-
 - (a) The accountability for delivery of fire control, call handling and mobilisation functions within the region will remain with each of the FRA’s when the RCC takes over the provision of regional control services, as each FRA will retain their statutory function to provide call handling/mobilisation services. All that will change is that they will be discharging this duty by making arrangements for the RCC to provide the services instead of providing them in house. The RCC will then be accountable to the FRA’s through contractual arrangements with the FRA’s to ensure that the service is provided.
 - (b) It would, in any event, be a matter for the Company to determine which, if any, of its directors should be appointed as the single point of accountability

for the responsibilities of the RCC Company. However, again it is suggested the responsibilities of the Company should be those of the corporate body of the Company as a whole.

6. The NWF&RMB may wish to recommend the RCC Company, when established, nominates a single point of contact between CLG etc. and to also recommend which individual member/director is so nominated.
7. The Authority confirms that its management structures support the following principles :-
 - 7.1. The Authority is accountable for the preparations for and transition of its FRS at the local level.
 - 7.2. The Authority is responsible for defining its local project governance and management arrangements.
 - 7.3. The NWF&RMB, acting with the support of the regional project team is responsible for the regional project governance and management arrangements. The RCC, when established, will be responsible for regional project governance and management arrangements in conjunction with the agreement of the NWF&RMB and the constituent FRA's.
 - 7.4. The NWF&RM (through its nominated officers) will inform and consult with its constituent FRA's, on issues which are relevant to fire control and require a co-ordinated impact across the region that no individual FRA can implement.
 - 7.5. Responsibilities for co-ordinating contractor delivery will be devolved to the regions and FRS's with appropriate reporting through to the national team.
 - 7.6. Responsibilities for providing assurances will fall across the parties (including the Authority, and the RCC).
 - 7.7. Clear project communication and reporting lines have been established within the Authority and its officer structure and are also in place in respect of the Regional Project Team, the Regional Project Manager, the Regional Project Director, the NWF&RMB and the CLG.
 - 7.8. Communications between the Authority and the national team will take place via the regional project team/Project Manager/Project Director/NWF&RMB to ensure a common and consistent understanding is achieved across the team.
 - 7.9. All escalation between the Authority and the national team will take place via the regional project team/Project Manager/Project Director/NWF&RMB to ensure a common and consistent understanding is achieved across the team.
 - 7.10. The region will use the Unicorn tool for reporting to the national team (except where that option is unavailable).

- 7.11. The Authority will also use the Unicorn tool for reporting to the national team (via the regional project team/Project Manager/Project Director/NWF&RMB) unless the regional team are undertaking the reporting on behalf of the Authority.
- 7.12. A copy diagram outline of the regional structure is attached for information.

OUTLINE FIRE CONTROL
GOVERNANCE/ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES

