

Fire and Rescue Service Monthly Bulletin

Bulletin number: 12

05 July 2011

Addressed to:

The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The London Commissioner
The Chief Fire Officer

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This item provides an update on the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework.

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This item provides information on the future of fire and rescue control services.

Title: Payment of the Fire Revenue Grant

This item provides an update on the payment of the Fire Revenue Grant 2011-12.

<u>Title: Regulatory Enforcement: Department for Business Innovation and Skills consultation</u> on Enforcement Strategy

This signposts the release on the Regulatory Enforcement: Department for Business Innovation and Skills consultation on Enforcement Strategy on 24 June 2011.

Title: Opportunity within the Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser

Highlights a secondment opportunity within the Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser.

Title: Firebuy closure update

This item updates information on the novation of the Firebuy framework contracts.

Fire and Rescue Service National Framework

1. Background

- 1.1 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires a Fire and Rescue National Framework to be in place which sets out the priorities and objectives for Fire and Rescue Authorities in connection with the discharge of their functions.
- 1.2 The Government Response to the Fire Futures Reports, published on 12 April 2011, committed to work with the sector to develop and consult on a new Framework to be in place for 2012.

2. Fire and Rescue Service National Framework

- 2.1 The Fire Minister Bob Neill MP wrote to partners across the fire sector on Monday 13 June 2011, which announced that officials in the Fire, Resilience and Emergencies Directorate are due to begin work on the next National Framework.
- 2.2 The letter highlighted that the new Framework will be a short strategic document that re-sets the relationship between central Government and the Fire and Rescue Service. Stepping back from directing local services, it will place greater emphasis on local accountability for local services and focus on issues where there is a clear national interest, including national resilience.
- 2.3 The Minister has invited the Local Government Group, Chief Fire Officers' Association, Fire Brigades Union and the Fire Sector Partnership to participate in a Partner Working Group. This Group will advise the Minister on content for the draft National Framework consultation document.
- 2.4 There will be a full public consultation on the Framework later in the year, during which all partners and interested bodies will have the opportunity to participate.
- 2.5 The existing National Framework remains in force until the new one is brought into effect.

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Future fire and rescue control services scheme

1. Background

- 1.1 Following the closure of the FiReControl project in December 2010, the Department consulted on the future of fire and rescue control services. The consultation was launched on 13 January 2011 and finished on 8 April 2011.
- 1.2 Issues covered by the consultation included:
 - Lessons learnt from FiReControl
 - Whether improved resilience, efficiency and enhanced technology were as important now as when FiReControl started in 2004
 - The best approach for the future
 - How available funding should be allocated
 - The role of central Government
- 1.3 A total of 61 responses were received. On 13 June 2011, the Fire Minister wrote to Chairs of Fire and Rescue Authorities and Chief Fire Officers summarising the points of consensus emerging from the consultation. These included:
 - Next steps should be sector led and no local solution imposed
 - Improved resilience, efficiency and technology were at least as important today
 - Funding for the completion of Firelink, for enhanced voice and data services, was the top priority for funding
 - The best approach locally, with some Government support. There was also backing for developing common standards to support this.

2. The Government response to the consultation

- 2.1 The Department has today published the Government's response, including information about the funding scheme for future control services. This takes account of views expressed.
- 2.2 The Department will make available total funding of £81 million for improving resilience and efficiency. As a guide, Fire and Rescue Authorities may bid for up to £1.8 million each. Authorities may bid for more than this in cases where exceptional resilience benefits can be shown, but the total sum cannot exceed £81 million.
- 2.3 Additional funding of £1.8 million in total will be available for sector-led initiatives that deliver resilience and efficiency benefits for Fire and Rescue Services across the country. An example might be the development of common technical and procedural standards.
- 2.4 Bids are requested by 4 November 2011 and will be assessed by the Department and its Fire and Rescue Service experts for value for money and resilience improvements. Where further clarification is required, or the plans submitted could be strengthened through expert advice, the Department will consult a panel with representatives from the Chief Fire Officers' Association and Local Government Group.
- 2.5 These two organisations will also be part of the programme oversight process. The Department is grateful for their co-operation in developing the scheme.
- 2.6 The Department's strategy is to build national resilience through local solutions. It will be monitoring national resilience outcomes from the improvements made.

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Future fire and rescue control services scheme

- 2.7 A Written Ministerial Statement has been laid in Parliament today setting out the scheme and the Fire Minister has written with more information to Chairs of Fire and Rescue Authorities and Chief Fire Officers.
- 2.8 The response document can be found at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/controlservicessummaryresponses

END

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Payment of Fire Revenue Grant

2. Background

1.3 Neil O'Connor, Director of Fire, Resilience and Emergencies Directorate wrote to all Chief Fire Officers and Heads of Finance on Wednesday 15 June 2011 outlining the arrangements for the payment of Fire Revenue Grant.

2. Funding

- 2.1 Payment of Fire Revenue Grant began in June. The grant is being paid in monthly installments and covers funding for Firelink, New Dimension, Olympics Security and Future Control Rooms. Payments covering the April, May and June installments were paid together and subsequent monthly payments should be made on 15th of each month starting in July.
- 2.2 The grant includes an initial amount of funding to support transitional planning and implementation efforts for future control room arrangements. This is made up of £20,000 per Fire and Rescue Authority and a fixed amount of £50,000 provided to the Local Authority Control Companies holding control centre leases. Fire and Rescue Authorities received this element of the grant as a separate one-off payment.
- 2.3 It is expected that additional funding will be made available in light of the responses to the consultation on future control room arrangements. These additional amounts, and any other adjustments required, will be included in a second grant determination later in the year which will increase monthly Fire Revenue Grant payments to Fire and Rescue Authorities.
- 2.4 A copy of 'Fire and Rescue Authorities Revenue Funding Grant Determination 2011/12' (No. 31/1868) was sent with Neil O'Connor's letter. A breakdown of the grant payable under this grant determination is attached to this bulletin. These figures, totaling £37.3 million, supersede the indicative figures released alongside the local government settlement.

		Control	Control			
		Rooms	Rooms	Olympic	New	
	Firelink	(1)	(2)	Security	Dimension	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Avon Fire Authority	282,760	20,000			990,000	1,292,760
Bedfordshire Fire Authority	57,423	20,000			59,000	136,423
Berkshire Fire Authority	144,369	20,000			43,000	207,369
Buckinghamshire Fire Authorit	y 59,222	20,000			934,000	1,013,222
Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	86,115	20,000			45,000	151,115
Cheshire Fire Authority	65,168	20,000			81,000	166,168
Cleveland Fire Authority	73,976	20,000			71,000	164,976
Cornwall	275,430	20,000			84,000	379,430
Cumbria	53,841	20,000			45,000	118,841
Derbyshire Fire Authority	106,484	20,000			83,000	209,484
Devon and Somerset Fire Authority	587,437	20,000			1,047,000	1,654,437
Dorset Fire Authority	161,917	20,000		328,000	46,000	555,917
Durham Fire Authority	182,674	•	1,329,414	•	43,000	•
East Sussex Fire Authority	33,851	20,000			45,000	
Essex Fire Authority	143,825	20,000			962,000	1,125,825
GLA – fire	644,807	20,000	2,748,184	1,085,000		

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Payment of Fire Revenue Grant

		Control	Control			
		Rooms	Rooms	Olympic	New	
	Firelink	(1)	(2)	Security	Dimension	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gloucestershire	72,490	20,000			45,000	137,490
Greater Manchester Fire	128,077	70,000	1,749,231		117,000	2,064,308
Hampshire Fire Authority	155,292	20,000			996,000	1,171,292
Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority	167,976	20,000			1,001,000	1,188,976
Hertfordshire	97,246	20,000			45,000	162,246
Humberside Fire Authority	9,945	20,000			77,000	106,945
Isle of White Council	5,741	20,000			43,000	68,741
Isles of Scilly	0	0			11,000	11,000
Kent Fire Authority	150,657	20,000			1,034,000	1,204,657
Lancashire Fire Authority	104,992	20,000			997,000	1,121,992
Leicestershire Fire Authority	201,366	70,000	1,375,209		988,000	2,634,575
Lincolnshire	254.483	20,000			959,000	1,233,483
Merseyside Fire	148.949	20,000			994,000	1,162,949
Norfolk	23,408	20,000			962,000	1,005,408
North Yorkshire Fire Authority	22,737	20,000			51,000	93,737
Northamptonshire	147,596	20,000			43,000	210,596
Northumberland	81,201	20,000			45,000	146,201
Nottinghamshire Fire Authorit	•	20,000			45,000	261,142
Oxfordshire	78,355	20,000			74,000	172,355
Shropshire Fire Authority	0	20,000			43,000	63,000
South Yorkshire Fire	27,729	20,000			77,000	124,729
Staffordshire Fire Authority	140,151	20,000			115,000	275,151
Suffolk	54,919	20,000			38,000	112,919
Surrey	38,790	20,000			74,000	132,790
Tyne and Wear Fire	112,334	20,000			985,000	1,117,334
Warwickshire	0	20,000			43,000	63,000
West Midlands Fire	83,491	20,000			1,071,000	1,174,491
West Sussex	195,792	20,000			499,000	714,792
West Yorkshire Fire	160,551	20,000			1,436,000	1,616,551
Wiltshire Fire Authority	116,070	20,000			38,000	174,070
Total	5,935,779	1,050,000	7,202,038	3 1,413,000	21,660,000	37,260,817 END

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Regulatory Enforcement: Department for Business Innovation and Skills consultation on Enforcement Strategy

1. Background

- 1.1 The Government has launched two documents underpinning a consultation period on regulatory enforcement to seek views on the best ways to deliver improvements. The proposed changes are intended to deliver commitments made in the Growth Review as part of a package of measures to free up business from unnecessary regulatory burdens.
- 2. Regulatory Enforcement: Department for Business Innovation and Skills consultation on Enforcement Strategy
- 2.1 The two consultation documents are a Discussion Paper on improving the implementation of regulation and a document on the future of the Local Better Regulation Office and the Primary Authority scheme, which seeks views on the proposal to extend the Primary Authority Scheme to include the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
- 2.2 Both these documents, together with a consultation response form, are available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/improving-regulatory-delivery/consultation-enforcement-strategy

2.3 The consultation closes on 15 September 2011.

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Opportunity within the Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Service Adviser

1. Background

1.1 There is a secondment opportunity in the Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser within the small team of fire and rescue advisers for an adviser to provide professional and technical advice on the following subject references: the National Resilience Programme; National Framework; Health and Safety; Operational Guidance; Business Continuity; and Crown Premises Fire Safety Enforcement.

2. Opportunities Details

- 2.1 The fire and rescue advisers are part of the Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser and are responsible for providing professional and technical advice on a range of subject references related to Fire and Rescue Service activities, in support of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, as required.
- 2.2 The advisers work as part of a small team made up predominately of secondees from Fire and Rescue Services. With a number of staffing changes over the duration of the secondment period it is expected that the successful candidate will need to work across a number of subject reference areas.
- 2.3 The secondment will normally last for no more than two years, and is likely to be of interest to Fire and Rescue Service staff at Area Manager or Group Manager level who are committed to the improvement agenda and wish to broaden their experience of working at a strategic level and their experience of engaging with a wide range of partners.
- 2.4 More detail about the secondment opportunity, the role and the application process can be found at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/jobs/.

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Firebuy closure update

1. Background

1.1 On 14 October 2010 it was announced that Firebuy was closing following the review of Arms Length Bodies across government with a managed handover to ensure continuity during the transition. See Fire and Rescue Service Monthly Bulletin Number 4 issued 1 November 2010 http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/fsb42010.

2. Arrangements for Firebuy's framework contracts

- 2.1 From 31 May 2011 Wiltshire County Council has become the Contracting Authority for the seventeen Firebuy framework contracts with The Consortium for Purchasing and Distribution Ltd managing these on day to day on Wiltshire's behalf. This ensures the continuity of the previous Firebuy arrangements.
- 2.2 Contact details for any enquiries on the framework contracts are as follows:

Email: firebuy@theconsortium.co.uk

Phone: 0845 3307765

Fax: 0845 3307742.

- 2.3 The seventeen contracts are:
 - Air Compressors
 - Aerial Appliances
 - Breathing Apparatus
 - Emergency Response Equipment
 - Fire Extinguishers (and Fire Safety Training)
 - Flood and Water Rescue
 - Flood and Water Rescue Craft
 - Foam Concentrates
 - Gas Tight Suits/Chemical Protective Clothing
 - Handheld Radios
 - Life Jackets, Buoyancy Aids, Floatation Devises
 - Major Incident Equipment
 - Pumping Appliances
 - Smoke Alarms
 - Special Vehicles
 - Thermal Images Cameras
 - Training Equipment (Training Dummies and Smoke Generators)
- 2.4 On 31 May 2011 Neil O'Connor, Director of Fire Resilience and Emergencies wrote to all Fire and Rescue Authority Chairs and Chief Fire Officers about the new process and encouraging them to continue using these contracts to maintain the benefits of collaborative procurement and to work with The Consortium in shaping how any future contracts are developed.

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