



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Fire and Rescue Monthly Bulletin

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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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Operational Efficiencies Review led by Sir Ken Knight

1. Introduction

On 14th December 2012, Minister for Fire, Brandon Lewis announced that Sir Ken Knight, the outgoing Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, would lead a short review into the operational efficiency of the services delivered by fire and rescue authorities in England.

2. Information

The review will seek to identify the ways in which fire and rescue authorities may deliver further efficiencies and operational improvements without reducing the quality of front line services to the public. The review will examine options for savings both within and beyond the current Spending Review period including through:

- Firefighter training
- Flexible staffing and crewing arrangements
- The use of retained firefighters
- Procurement
- Shared services
- Collaboration with emergency services and other organisations on service delivery and estates
- Sickness management
- Sharing of senior staff
- Locally led mergers and operational collaborations
- New Fire-fighting technology
- Preventative approaches
- Working with local businesses

Sir Ken Knight will talk to key organisations in the fire sector, including the Local Government Association, the Chief Fire Officers Association, the Fire Brigades Union, the Fire Sector Federation, individual fire and rescue authorities and other relevant partners. All fire and rescue authorities have been invited to have input and put forward their views. Should you wish to input you can send your views to the dedicated email account: firereview@communities.gsi.gov.uk

In addition Sir Ken will undertake a number of visits to a representative range of fire and rescue authorities including those covering urban and rural areas and those constituted as metropolitan, county and combined authorities. The Department will provide Sir Ken with analytical support in particular looking at examples of efficiencies outside of the fire sector. Field work and analysis will be conducted from January to March 2013 with a final report presented to Ministers in Spring 2013.

The review will take into account the findings of previous reviews and reports and their recommendations.

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Fire Capital Bidding Outcome 2013-15

1. Introduction

The Minister for Fire, Brandon Lewis, approved the method of distribution of £140million fire capital funding for the next two years. This was announced along with the local government finance settlement on 19 December 2012.

2. Information

The bidding process for fire capital funding closed on 2 July 2012. In all, the Department is allocating £38 million to fire and rescue authorities as part of the bidding exercise across the next two financial years and the remaining £102 million will be distributed to all fire and rescue authorities using a population formula.

A letter was issued to all chief fire officers on 19 December 2012 setting out their allocation of funding over the next two years.

For further information please contact:

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Control Centre Buildings Update

1. Introduction

Following the termination of the FiReControl project good progress has been made to find emergency service tenants for four of the nine regional control centres that were built. In order to find tenants for the remaining control centres the Department for Communities and Local Government is currently conducting a marketing campaign.

2. Information

The Department has made good progress in finding tenants for four of the nine regional control centre's that were built as part of the terminated FiReControl project.

The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority are already using the Merton centre as their control room. North West Fire Control Ltd will use the Warrington building as a shared control room. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency will use the building in Fareham as their operations centre and County Durham and Darlington will use the Durham building as their headquarters.

The remaining five control centre's are those in Cambridge (Waterbeach), Taunton, Castle Donington, Wolverhampton and Wakefield.

In order to find tenants for these buildings the Department is currently conducting a marketing campaign, looking for either public or private sector tenants. As you will be aware, the buildings have a range of specialist and resilient features and facilities. They also have the potential to be used for a variety of functions apart from control centres. These include conversion to data centres, headquarters, disaster recovery, training or office use. You can find further information about the buildings at <http://www.zenithcontrol.co.uk/>.

Fire and Rescue Authorities can play an important part in helping the Department. If you know of others in the wider emergency service or critical infrastructure community who might potentially be able to use one of the remaining buildings please pass on the website address above or suggest they contact Rachel Dickenson (details below). Your efforts would be much appreciated and would help us to make best use of tax payer's money by making good use of the buildings which would in turn benefit all public services.

In addition to the marketing campaign the Department is continuing to take action to reduce the running costs of the empty control centres. Last year the facilities management costs were reduced by 25% and the utilities costs by 35%. We are currently piloting a further reduction in the utilities costs and are undertaking a further exercise to reduce facilities management costs again from April 2013.

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Protective Security Strategy – Framework and Toolkit

1. Introduction

Fire and Rescue Circular 64/2009 outlined a strategy for implementing protective security within fire and rescue authorities, developed and agreed between the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser and the Chief Fire Officers Association, to align the sector with the security policies of Her Majesty's Government Security Policy Framework.

A Chief Fire Officers Association Protective Security Working Group was established to develop a framework and guidance to implement protective security in line with the strategy.

2. Fire and Rescue Protective Security Strategy and Framework

A new Fire and Rescue Protective Security Strategy has been created to ensure alignment with the Government's National Security Strategy 2010. This replaces the strategy announced through Fire and Rescue Circular 64/2009.

The new strategy is available on the Inside Government website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-and-rescue-protective-security-strategy-2012>

The Chief Fire Officers Association Protective Security Working Group has produced a framework and toolkit to assist regional working groups and individual fire and rescue authorities in implementing protective security. The document is titled: *Fire and Rescue Protective Security Strategy - A framework and toolkit to assist in implementation of Her Majesty's Government Security Policy Framework in the Fire and Rescue Service*.

The framework is available on the Chief Fire Officers Association's website at:

<http://www.cfoa.org.uk/12729>

The framework provides guidance designed to assist fire and rescue authorities with the introduction of the requirements contained in Her Majesty's Government Security Policy Framework, as set out in the Fire and Rescue Protective Security Strategy. The framework is developed for Regional Security Liaison Officers, Regional Security Steering Groups, and Security Practitioners within fire and rescue authorities.

The Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser has written to Chief Fire Officers, Chief Executive Officers, and the Local Government Association to explain the strategy and framework.

Fire and rescue authorities are critical responders within the Civil Contingencies framework and an integral part of the multi agency structure for local resilience. Integrating protective security enables fire and rescue authorities to fully participate and cooperate within the multi agency framework, and assist in securing national resilience.

The Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser will continue to work with Her Majesty's Government, its Executive Agencies, and cross sector organisations to ensure that fire and rescue authorities are part of the continuing development of this critical protection.

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