

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**4<sup>th</sup> December, 2006**

1. **ACTION ON A MATTER OF URGENCY**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer and Clerk

RECOMMENDED

THAT the report be noted.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to inform the Authority of action taken by the Clerk, after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, on a matter of urgency.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 Fire Service Circular 42/2006 requested Fire Authorities to signal their willingness to participate in a National Mutual Aid Protocol for Serious Incidents. This would replace the National Mutual Aid Agreement that was entered into by the Authority on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2004. The protocol is necessary to ensure the smooth co-ordination of specialist (New Dimension) resources hosted by Fire and Rescue Authorities.

3.2 The new protocol has been produced in consultation with the Chief Fire Officers' Association, the Fire Lawyers' Network and the Local Government Association, and is expected to be an interim arrangement pending the introduction of an Emergencies Order to be made in Spring 2007 under Section 9 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2007 and the introduction of Regional Fire Control Centres from 2008/9.

3.3 The deadline for responses to this Circular was 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2006, and it had not been possible to finalise a report in time for the Authority meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2006, and it was therefore necessary to deal with this as a matter of urgency under Standing Order No 17.

- 3.4 The Clerk, after consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, has signed the Protocol on behalf of the Authority.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report, an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out as the matters referred to do not represent a change in the policies or functions of the Authority.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any costs involved will be met from existing budgets.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer to the Chair and Vice Chair approved on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2006.

F J E SHEEHAN  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

SUSAN PHELPS  
CLERK