

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

20th September, 2010

1. **PROPOSED DISSOLUTION OF THE WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer and Clerk

RECOMMENDED

- (1) THAT the Authority agrees to the dissolution of the West Midlands Regional Management Board;
- (2) THAT in pursuance of (1) above, the Chief Fire Officer and Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, be given delegated power to take all necessary steps to achieve the dissolution of the West Midlands Regional Management Board at the earliest practical date, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to inform the Authority of a recommendation from the West Midlands Regional Management Board that the Board be dissolved.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The recent announcement by the Fire Minister Bob Neill has given the opportunity to review the need for a formal Regional Management Board in the West Midlands.
- 3.2 The West Midlands Regional Management Board met on 25th August, 2010, and considered the attached report. The Board were in favour of dissolution by a target date of 31st December, 2010. Any such action will be subject to approval by the Secretary of State, and the Clerk to the Regional Management Board has written to seek approval for the proposed dissolution. The Board was keen to encourage continued informal joint working between fire and rescue authorities both within the West Midlands boundaries and beyond.

3.3 The formal resolution of the Board is as follows:

‘To recommend to the region’s Fire and Rescue Authorities that they agree to dissolve the West Midlands Regional Management Board and that they give delegated powers to their Chief Fire Officers, in consultation with the Chairs of Authorities, to take all necessary steps to achieve the dissolution of the West Midlands Regional Management Board at the earliest practical date, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State.’

3.4 The likely steps necessary to bring about the dissolution of the Board are the amendment of the 2004 agreement to provide for termination by mutual consent at a short period of notice.

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**

See the attached report.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Board has no employees or assets so the process of winding up should be straightforward.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to the West Midlands Regional Management Board dated 25th August, 2010 [attached];
WMRMB Agreement;
WMRMB Programme Plan;
Statement made by the Minister of State for Fire published 28th July 2010.

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

SUSAN PHELPS
CLERK