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| This circular is | <b>For information</b>   | No response required |                     |
| This circular is | <b>Relevant to the National Framework</b>  |                      |                     |
| Status           | <b>This circular informs Fire and Rescue Authorities and senior staff in the Fire and Rescue Service of progress with the Fire and Resilience Programme.</b> |                      |                     |

# Fire and Resilience Programme Highlights – June 2009

## Issued by:

**Bess Teeger**

**FRS Development Division**

## 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 Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue  
Authority  
The Commissioner of the London Fire and  
Emergency Planning Authority  
The Chief Fire Officer**

## Please forward to:

## Summary

This continues the series of monthly 'highlights' notes to inform Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) and senior staff in the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) of progress with the Programme.

## For further information, contact:

|  |             |   |
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Website [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

### 1.0 National Procurement

- 1.1 A Written Ministerial Statement, issued on 25 June 2009, announced changes affecting Firebuy, the national procurement body for the Fire and Rescue Service in England. The full statement is at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/firebuyLtd>
- 1.2 The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Shahid Malik, proposed that Firebuy's functions should in future be carried out within a larger organisation integrating national procurement with the management of the service contracts for the Fire and Resilience Programme (Firelink, FiReControl and New Dimension). Firebuy already performs this function in respect of New Dimension. More detailed proposals for in-service management of the Fire and Resilience Programme will be set out in a consultation, to be published shortly.

### 2.0 FiReControl

#### FIRECONTROL IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 CLG recently released circular 35/2009 on the funding of FiReControl. The implementation funding is provided under the principles of new burdens. The grant payment is made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The grant will not be ring fenced and a copy of the determination will be sent to each FRA once made.
- 2.2 The principle for calculating new burdens (which applies across Government) is that central Government will cover the net additional costs to local government generally arising from the provision of its policy objective - those costs over and above what would normally have been spent to deliver the service - and take into account any additional income or savings. This calculation is made separately for each financial year in advance of any expenditure. The Government remains committed to ensuring it does not place an unfunded burden on local government.
- 2.3 The Department recognises that there may be particular circumstances where further Departmental funding would be appropriate. The Department will give consideration on a case by case basis following new burdens principles. FRAs should contact us at the earliest possible opportunity if they believe that they may have an issue which is an exception to the principles set out in this or previous circulars. There is no specific deadline for such cases but they should be submitted in advance of committing to expenditure.
- 2.4 No FRA will transfer functions to a regional control centre before the start of the financial year (FY) 2010-11. The Department intends to continue to fund the Regional Control Centres (RCCs) until they become operational and then to reduce funding proportionately as each FRA transfers into its Regional Control Centre.

- 2.5 The Department makes its assessment in advance of each financial year of the implementation funding requirement and expects FRAs, regional teams and Local Authority Controlled Companies (LACCs) to make best endeavours to work within allocated amounts to fulfil implementation requirements locally and regionally. Where expenditure exceeds allocated amounts it can not be assumed that the Department will retrospectively meet overspends in part or full, unless written agreement has been reached in advance supported by evidence.
- 2.6 FRAs and the Local Authority Controlled Companies should account for costs that will be funded by the Department and include the expenditure and receipts in their accounts. It should be expected that these records be made available to the Department, particularly where requests for additional funding are being made.
- 2.7 The Department intends to provide £22,539,430 as the initial allocation for FiReControl implementation funding for FY 2009-10.

|                       | £                 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Transition Funding    | 6,804,419         |
| LACC Funding          | 11,052,031        |
| Regional Team Funding | 1,452,172         |
| Staff Pool            | 3,230,808         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>22,539,430</b> |

- 2.8 These funds are intended to cover the following:
- **Transition activities** – the costs of local FRS FiReControl co-ordinators and the delivery of activities as set out in the FRS transition plans
  - **Local Authority Controlled Companies** – all costs prior to cutover, including staff and accommodation costs and professional advice
  - **Regional Project Teams** – the cost of regional project teams with responsibility for regional coordination and project management
  - **Staff Pool** – the estimated costs of the staff pool arising in 2009-10

**Bess Teeger**

**FRS Development Division**