

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT NATIONAL FRAMEWORK 2006 - 08

1 Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the recently circulated draft Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2006-08 published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). The ODPM seeks the Fire Authority's observations on the draft Framework, with comments to be returned by no later than 10 February 2006. The Fire Authority, at its meeting on 15 December 2005, delegated responsibility for the preparation of a response to the Strategy and Resources Committee.

2 Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- a) Note the report; and
- b) Consider, comment upon, and approve, the proposed response outlined within this report for formal submission to the ODPM by 10 February 2006.

3 Background

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 has given statutory effect to the National Framework and requires the Secretary of State to report against it. Section 21 of the Act requires the Secretary of State to prepare and keep current a National Framework, setting out priorities and objectives for Fire and Rescue Authorities (F&RAs), with the aim of promoting public safety, and the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of authorities and their functions. The Secretary of State must consult representatives of authorities and their employees before making significant revisions.

The Fire Authority (as with all other F&RAs) is required by the Act to 'have regard' to the Framework when carrying out its functions.



4 Draft National Framework 2006 - 08 Summary

The Government is responsible for setting clear priorities and objectives for the Fire and Rescue Service (F&RS). The National Framework sets out:

- The Government's expectations for the F&RS;
- What F&RAs are expected to do; and
- What support the Government will provide.

The National Framework underlines the Government's long-term commitment to improving fire and rescue services. The Government has made clear that the document is not a national blueprint. Giving F&RAs the flexibility they need to meet the specific needs of their local communities remains at the heart of the Government's approach. The Framework is designed to give F&RAs a firm foundation on which to build local solutions.

The Framework is divided into nine chapters:

Chapter 1 - Fire prevention and risk management - covers work to prevent fires and manage risk, including the development of Integrated Risk Management Plans (IRMPs).

Chapter 2 - Working together: the regional level- covers the functions on which F&RAs should work together through Regional Management Boards (RMBs), and focus on regional control centres and procurement.

Chapter 3 - Effective response - focuses on providing an effective response when incidents do occur.

Chapter 4 - Resilience and New Dimension - sets out the strategy for responding to the new terrorist threat and other major natural or manmade disasters.

Chapter 5 - Fire and rescue staff - deals with fair and effective management of F&RS staff, including equality and diversity issues.

Chapter 6 - Workforce development - covers the Integrated Personal Development System and training provision.

Chapter 7 - Finance - deals with the funding provided by central government and financial management issues.

Chapter 8 - Performance management - covers progress following the introduction of Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA); improvement planning; Best Value; capturing and disseminating good practice; Local Area Agreements; and e-Government.

Chapter 9 - Research - outlines the fire and rescue research strategy.

Each section addresses the Government's objectives; what the Government will do to help; and action for F&RAs and Regional Management Boards.



5 Draft National Framework 2006-08: Consultation Exercise

The draft National Framework for 2006-08 can be found at:

<http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1123811>

The existing 2005/06 National Framework can be found at:

<http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1123812>

The consultation period concludes on **Friday 10 February 2006**. For each chapter, consultees are specifically asked to respond to the following questions in respect of the National Framework document:

- Is the National Framework clear about the Government's objectives and priorities, what Fire and Rescue Authorities are expected to deliver, and the support the Government will provide?
- If not, how could it be improved?
- Do you agree with the policies set out in each chapter?
- If not, why not, and what alternative policy would you wish to see instead?
- Do you have any comments on the implementation of the policies set out that are of relevance to the National Framework?

The Fire Authority's Performance Improvement Department has coordinated a response in consultation with the West Midlands Regional Management Board (WMRMB) and this is outlined within the report.

6 Draft National Framework 2006-08: Analysis

The draft National Framework 2006-08 has been examined to assess its impact upon the WMRMB and F&RAs. The examination has drawn comparisons with the current National Framework 2005/06. This analysis, whilst not exhaustive, has focused predominately upon those paragraphs within both frameworks that identify *Should* or *Must* do objectives. The results of the analysis are shown at Appendix A.

From the analysis undertaken the key overarching observations are:

- The absence of 'SMART' objectives (i.e. which are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and given a Time to be achieved) for the majority of paragraphs that place *Should* and/or *Must* requirements upon the WMRMB and F&RAs.
- Little constructive linkage between the Government's targets and priorities (Annex B of Framework) and the stated paragraphs that place *Should* and/or *Must* requirements upon WMRMB and F&RAs.
- Details contained within some of the annexes to the draft Framework document will be obsolete during 2006-08.
- No linkage is made between the draft National Framework and the F&RS Milestone Map, which can be viewed at

www.odpm.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1123808



These and other observations have been recorded within a proposed draft response that addresses the consultation questions set out above. The proposed draft response is set out at Appendix B to this report.

7 Legal Comment

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 has given statutory effect to the National Framework. The following summarised sections of the Act should be noted.

Section 21 requires the Secretary of State to prepare and keep current a National Framework. Fire and Rescue Authorities must 'have regard' to the Framework when carrying out their functions.

Section 22 provides the Secretary of State with the power to intervene, if he considers a Fire and Rescue Authority is failing, or is likely to fail, to act in accordance with the Framework.

Section 24 explicitly extends the Audit Commission's powers to inspect - contained within the Local Government Act 1999 - to include performance expectations in the Framework that might not be covered by the Best Value inspection powers in the 1999 Act.

Section 25 requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament on the extent to which Fire and Rescue Authorities are acting in accordance with the Framework, and any steps taken by him to ensure that they do.

8 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

9 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no equality or diversity implications arising directly from this report.

10 Appendices

Appendix A – Impact Assessment

Appendix B – Draft Response to Consultation Exercise

11 Background Papers

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

2005 - Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2004/05

2004 - Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2005/06

2005 - Draft Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2006-08

2005 - Fire and Rescue Service Circular: Consultation Exercise National Framework and Strategy for Children and Young People. Fire Service Circular 52-2005

For further information about this report please contact Alan Taylor, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201 or Steve Worrall, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260204.



**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
CONSULTATION EXERCISE:
DRAFT NATIONAL FRAMEWORK 2006-08**

Appendix A – Impact Assessment

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			

Chapter: Introduction				
<p>3 The National Framework is a strategic plan outlining how the PSA and other objectives can be delivered. Its three principal objectives remain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to provide clarity about the outcomes and objectives the Government wants to be achieved; to set out what the Government expects Fire and Rescue Authorities and Regional Management Boards to do in order to meet these objectives; and to explain what the Government will do to support Fire and Rescue Authorities and Regional Management Boards to meet these objectives. 	<p>1. The National Framework is a strategic plan outlining how the PSA and other objectives can be delivered.</p>	<p>Greater clarity provided over objectives of National Framework.</p>	<p>No additional implications.</p>	<p>No additional implications.</p>
Chapter: 1 Fire Prevention and Risk Management				
<p>1.4 In summary, Fire and Rescue Authorities must each have in place and maintain an IRMP which reflects local need and which sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. They should also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> produce annual action plans on which they have fully consulted their local 	<p>1.4 In summary, Fire and Rescue Authorities must each have in place and maintain an IRMP which reflects local need and which sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. They Should also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> produce annual action plans on which they have fully consulted their local 	<p>No changes</p>	<p>No additional implications.</p>	<p>No changes to existing 'Must do' task.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>communities, allowing twelve weeks for the consultation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have regard to central government guidance in producing their plans; and • make efficient and effective use of resources to implement the IRMP and the action plan, including using more efficient working practices where appropriate. 	<p>communities, allowing twelve weeks for the consultation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ have regard to central government guidance in producing their plans; and ■ make efficient and effective use of resources to implement the IRMP and the action plan, including using more efficient working practices where appropriate. 			
<p>1.12 Vulnerable groups can only be identified and targeted successfully based on a good knowledge of their characteristics and needs, and good use of face to face contact, local community groups and local media, for example through community advocates. Firefighters, whether whole time or on the retained duty system, non-operational staff and volunteers all have a part to play. Fire safety can also be improved by making fire stations open to the community or shared with partner organisations.</p> <p>Fire and Rescue Authorities should consider community fire safety, including the priority vulnerable groups in their area, in preparing their IRMPs and in deciding the balance of funding and resources.</p>	<p>1.9 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 created a new statutory duty on Fire and Rescue Authorities to promote fire safety. This places fire prevention at the heart of Fire and Rescue Service activity. Authorities Should consider community fire safety and its contribution to meeting the new duty in preparing their IRMPs and in deciding the balance of funding and resources.</p>	<p>Greater clarity provided over objectives of National Framework.</p>	<p>No additional implications.</p>	<p>Greater clarity provided over objectives of 'Should do' task</p>
<p>Fire and Rescue Service Strategy for Children and Young People 2005-2010</p> <p>1.19 The Strategy is a five year high level</p>		<p>New strategy for children and young people.</p>	<p>No additional implications.</p>	<p>New 'Should do' task for F&RAs.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>strategy which aims to deliver effective reduction of fire risk and fire crime involving children and young people, building on the existing strengths of the Service in fire safety education, youth diversion and work with young firesetters. This work can contribute to fire prevention through reducing firesetting and hoax calls, and increasing awareness of fire safety. It can also help to tackle crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour, as well as improving school attendance and employment chances for young people. [Following consultation in autumn 2005, the strategy was launched in early 2006].</p> <p>1.20 It will be for authorities to decide what type and extent of work with children and young people will contribute most effectively to risk reduction in their areas, in accordance with the local priorities identified in their IRMPs. Good practice in planning, undertaking and evaluating work with young firesetters and youth diversion schemes is identified in recent ODPM research (Evaluation of interventions with arsonists and young firesetters (ODPM, March 2005), Effectiveness of youth diversion and training schemes (ODPM, forthcoming)).</p> <p>Fire and Rescue Authorities should have regard to the strategy in all work with children and young people which they undertake.</p>				

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>1.22 Arson is often part of a complex pattern which includes crime, fear of crime, antisocial behaviour and poor quality public space. Low-level disorder and thoughtless actions affect the quality of life of others, by creating fear or degrading the environment. All these issues can only be dealt with successfully if Fire and Rescue Authorities, the police and other local partners work together, for example in Arson Task Forces which bring together police and fire and rescue personnel, and operate car clearance schemes which aim to remove abandoned cars as quickly as possible. Fire and Rescue Authorities should consider arson reduction and their Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership strategies in preparing their IRMPs and deciding the balance of funding and resources.</p>	<p>1.18 Arson is often part of a complex pattern which includes crime, fear of crime, antisocial behaviour and poor quality public space. Low-level disorder and thoughtless actions affect the quality of life of others, by creating fear or degrading the environment. All these issues can only be dealt with successfully if Fire and Rescue Authorities, the police and other local partners work together, for example in Arson Task Forces which bring together police and fire and rescue personnel, and operate car clearance schemes which aim to remove abandoned cars as quickly as possible. This work forms part of the national strategy on nuisance vehicles, Cleaner Safer Greener Communities: Removing Nuisance Vehicles¹, which includes advice on good practice sources of support. The Government proposes to introduce new powers for local Authorities to tackle nuisance vehicles under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill.</p>	<p>Existing paragraph has been amended to include 'Should' task.</p>	<p>No additional implications.</p>	<p>New 'Should do' task for F&RAs.</p>
<p>1.25 Fire and Rescue Authorities should work with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and other partnerships with external agencies where they will add value.</p>	<p>1.20 Fire and Rescue Authorities Should work with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships² and other partnerships to develop, with other agencies, local solutions to local problems - for example, deliberate firesetting, hoax calls and other forms of anti-</p>	<p>Paragraph has been refined to only include involvement in partnerships where F&RAs <i>add</i></p>	<p>No additional implications.</p>	<p>No significant changes to existing 'Should do' task.</p>

¹ See: www.cleanersaferegreener.gov.uk

² Established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
	social behaviour.	<i>value.</i>		
1.34... Authorities must therefore have a fire safety inspection programme and this must form part of its IRMP, as set out in IRMP Guidance note 4, which gives advice on risk-based enforcement.	1.31 ...Authorities must therefore have a fire safety inspection programme and this MUST form part of its IRMP, as set out in IRMP Guidance Note 4, which gives advice on risk-based enforcement.	No significant changes arising	No additional implications.	No significant changes to existing 'Must do' task.
1.35 Fire and Rescue Authorities should - in drawing up their enforcement programmes - prioritise inspection of places that, in the case of fire, pose a significant risk to life. This will improve upon the current approach to inspection where priority is given to premises needing a certificate under the Fire Precautions Act 1971.	1.32 Fire and Rescue Authorities should - in drawing up their enforcement programmes - prioritise inspection of places that, in the case of fire, pose a significant risk to life ³ . This will improve upon the current approach to inspection where priority is given to premises needing a certificate under the Fire Precautions Act 1971.	No significant changes arising	No additional implications.	No significant changes to existing 'Must do' task.
1.38 Fire and Rescue Authorities should be aware of the contribution Crown Inspectors can make in achieving the aims and objectives of their IRMPs, consult Crown Inspectors on their IRMPs, and work closely with them where appropriate.	1.35 Fire and Rescue Authorities should be aware of the contribution Crown Inspectors can make to achieving the aims and objectives of their IRMPs, consult Crown Inspectors on their IRMPs, and work closely with them where appropriate.	No significant changes arising	No additional implications.	No significant changes to existing 'Should do' task.
Road Traffic Accident Reduction 1.39 The numbers of people killed or seriously injured on the roads is a significant problem to society. A multi agency approach is required, bringing together government		New paragraph encouraging F&RAs to enter into road safety partnerships	No additional implications.	New paragraph encouraging F&RAs to enter into road safety partnerships

³ Fire Precautions Act Circular 28, Appendix 28/2, paragraph 59, advised that fire and rescue services Should consider their approach to enforcement.

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>departments and at a local level, partnerships between the key service delivery agencies and interest groups, to work collectively on reducing the numbers of such events.</p> <p>Fire authorities are therefore encouraged to enter into partnerships specifically aimed at reducing the numbers and impacts of road traffic collisions, and to build upon existing road traffic collision reduction work, using the five x Es approach to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineer out the problems; • Enforce against poor driver behaviour; • Educate the community in road safety and promote good driver behaviour; • casualty centred Emergency response; and • Evaluate the impact of reduction initiatives. <p>1.40 This multi agency approach should engage fire with police, local authority engineering departments, local authority road safety units, the highways agency, road safety camera partnerships and the health service. This list is not definitive and local interest groups may also be in existence to add value. These partnerships may be stand alone or facilitated through local community safety partnerships such as local strategic partnerships [LSPs] and/or crime and disorder reduction partnerships [CDRPs]</p>				

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Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			

Chapter 2: Working Together: The Regional Approach				
<p>2.4 It is important that Regional Management Boards now deliver improvement in the Fire and Rescue Service.</p> <p>They must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear aims and objectives; and • delegated powers that are appropriate to those aims and objectives. 	<p>2.6 It is important that Regional Management Boards, now they have been set up, accomplish improvement in the Fire and Rescue Service.</p> <p>They MUST have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ clear aims and objectives; and ■ delegated powers that are appropriate to those aims and objectives. 	No changes	No significant changes to existing 'Must do' task.	No additional implications.
<p>2.5 Regional Management Boards should be able to demonstrate continuing and measurable progress towards meeting the requirements in each of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of this document; and that they have the capacity - in terms of both resources and expertise - to deliver in those key areas. Fire and Rescue Authorities should report in their Annual Efficiency Statements (see chapter 7) on the extent to which they are making efficiency savings through regional collaboration.</p>	<p>2.7 Regional Management Boards should be able to demonstrate continuing progress towards meeting the requirements in each of the six key areas listed at paragraph 2.9 of this document; and that they have the capacity - in terms of both resources and expertise - to deliver in those key areas.</p>	<p>Amended requirement to now demonstrate measurable progress.</p> <p>F&RAs to report progress via Annual Efficiency Statements</p>	No significant changes to existing 'Should do' task.	F&RAs will now be required to report progress via Annual Efficiency Statements

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p><i>The functions of Regional Management Boards</i></p> <p>2.7 There are six key areas of work that should be dealt with through Regional Management Boards.</p> <p>They should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integrate common and specialist services, e.g. fire investigation (see Chapter 3); • put in place effective resilience plans for large scale emergencies (see Chapter 4); • introduce regional personnel and human resource functions (see Chapter 5); • develop a regional approach to training (see Chapter 6). <p>2.8 They must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish regional control centres as an operational priority (see below); and • introduce regional procurement within the context of the national procurement strategy (see below). 	<p><i>The functions of Regional Management Boards</i></p> <p>2.9 There are six key areas of work that Should be dealt with through Regional Management Boards. They should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ integrate common and specialist services, ■ e.g. fire investigation (see Chapter 3); ■ put in place effective resilience plans for large scale emergencies (see Chapter 4); ■ introduce regional personnel and human resource functions (see Chapter 5); ■ develop a regional approach to training (see Chapter 6); ■ establish regional control centres (see below); and ■ introduce regional procurement within the context of a national procurement strategy (see below). 	<p>Two of the six key areas are now 'Must do' tasks</p>	<p>WMRMB 'Must' now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ establish regional control centres as an operational priority (see below); and ➤ introduce regional procurement within the context of the national procurement strategy 	<p>F&RAs 'Must support' WMRMB who in turn 'Must' now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ establish regional control centres as an operational priority (see below); and ➤ introduce regional procurement within the context of the national procurement strategy
<p>2.12 The Government consulted on the two options of a lead authority or a local authority company as suitable management vehicles for the new centres. It concluded that a local</p>	<p>2.12 A FiReControl Finance Working Group (FFWG) was set up to make recommendations on funding and governance issues associated with the project. Its report</p>	<p>Directive provided on the governance model to be adopted for</p>	<p>Local Authority Company to be established to manage regional</p>	<p>Local Authority Company to be established to manage regional</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
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<p>authority company is the model it wishes Regional Management Board to adopt because this reduces the exposure to risk of individual authorities and minimises administrative and operational risks to national resilience. It also provides greater transparency and accountability in terms of the governance structures and requires all authorities to take ownership and responsibility for the control centres in their region</p> <p>2.13 Regional Management Boards have been asked to establish local authority companies which will be responsible and accountable through their constituent Fire and Rescue Authorities for the control centres in their regions.</p>	<p>was issued for consultation in November 2004. All Fire and Rescue AUTHORITIES have been invited to respond to this document by 4 February 2005.</p>	<p>regional control centres.</p>	<p>control centre.</p>	<p>control centre.</p>
<p>2.14 Against the background above, Fire and Rescue Authorities, through the Regional Management Boards, must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with the Government to ensure that the phased transition from existing control rooms to the new control centres is integrated with the roll-out of Firelink and delivered by the end of 2009 • ensure that the local authority companies who will run the control centres on behalf of Fire and Rescue Authorities are established in Spring 2006 	<p>2.17 Against the background above, Fire and Rescue Authorities, through the Regional Management Boards, Must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure that they contribute to the delivery of the phased transition from existing control rooms to the new control centres within the overall national timetable by 2008; ■ ensure that the control centres are provided with timely, accurate and comprehensive information on appliance and crew availability and on other assets to make possible effective mobilisation; and 	<p>'Must do' directive provided on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ governance model to be adopted for regional control centres. ➤ Local Authority Company to be established by Spring 2006. ➤ National operating standards to adopted and 	<p>Local Authority Company to be established to manage regional control centre by Spring 2006. National standards to be adopted.</p>	<p>Local Authority Company to be established to manage regional control centre by Spring 2006. National standards to be adopted.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that the new control centres comply with national guidance to be issued on staff roles, training and mobilising procedures (including fallback and recovery) and resilience • ensure that they observe national guidance on operating and mobilising procedures and associated systems, • ensure that they establish the necessary interfaces with the national network • ensure that the control centres observe convergence and resilience requirements to be issued and that the staff maintain data for which they are responsible according to standards that will be defined. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ work closely with the Government to ensure that the timetable for roll-out, and integration with the Firelink timetable, are achieved. 	<p>interfaced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Observance of convergence and resilience requirements 		
	<p>2.18 Fewer staff will be needed for control duties when the new regional control centres are in place. The Government expects Authorities to make best efforts to redeploy staff no longer needed for control centre work to other roles. They should also ensure retention of sufficient staff to manage individual control rooms until regional control centres have been established. The Employers' Organisation will issue guidance on staffing issues, including TUPE, redundancy and recruitment and retention. The Integrated Personal Development System</p>	<p>Paragraph 2.18 has been removed from the new draft Framework.</p>	<p>Clarification required regarding government's intentions for staff no longer needed.</p>	<p>Clarification required regarding government's intentions for staff no longer needed</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
	(IPDS) (see Chapter 6) offers a route to equip staff with the skills they need for other work; for example on community fire safety or work elsewhere in local government.			
2.20 Fire and Rescue Authorities should support the arrangements set out in the Strategy and procure through FiReBuy Ltd. Directions will be used if necessary.		New paragraph.	No additional implications.	New 'Should do' task for F&RAs.
Chapter 3: Effective Response				
<p>3.3 Fire and Rescue Authorities should ensure an effective and efficient response is available to meet the range of incidents which they may reasonably expect to encounter, working together as appropriate. This includes ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staff are trained to professional standards, and are familiar with risks; • effective command and control systems are in place, fitting in with the programme to deliver RCCs; • incident commanders have the appropriate training and experience; and • the right equipment is available. 	<p>3.3 Fire and Rescue Authorities Should ensure an effective response is available to meet the range of incidents which they may reasonably expect to encounter, working together as appropriate. This includes ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ staff are trained to professional standards, and are familiar with risks; ■ effective command and control systems are in place; ■ incident commanders have the appropriate training and experience; and ■ the right equipment is available. 	<p>Amendment to paragraph requiring F&RAs to have effective command and control systems are in place, <i>fitting in with the programme to deliver RCCs</i>;</p>	<p>No additional implications.</p>	<p>Changes to existing 'Should do' task for F&RAs.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>3.10 In April 2004 ODPM published a Guide to Reducing the Number of False Alarms from Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems, in conjunction with CFOA and the British Fire Protection Systems Association. CFOA has also produced a Model Agreement for Remotely Monitored Fire Alarm Systems. These documents, together with the introduction of IRMPs and the use of modern intelligent information systems, allow risks to be assessed more effectively, providing the flexibility for more appropriate and better targeted response. Fire and Rescue Authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have regard to ODPM's 'Guide to Reducing the Number of False Alarms from Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems'; • consider the adoption of the CFOA 'Model Agreement for Remotely Monitored Fire Alarm Systems' published in 2004 following wide consultation with stakeholders; • working with other Fire and Rescue Authorities and other emergency services where appropriate, take steps to drive down the number of hoax calls and unwanted signals from automatic fire alarms; and 	<p>3.10 In April 2004 ODPM published a Guide to Reducing the Number of False Alarms from Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems⁴, in conjunction with CFOA and the British Fire Protection Systems Association. CFOA has also produced a Model Agreement for Remotely Monitored Fire Alarm Systems⁵. These documents, together with the introduction of IRMPs and the use of modern intelligent information systems, allow risks to be assessed more effectively, providing the flexibility for more appropriate and better targeted response. Fire and Rescue Authorities Should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ have regard to ODPM's 'Guide to Reducing the Number of False Alarms from Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems'; ■ consider the adoption of the CFOA 'Model Agreement for Remotely Monitored Fire Alarm Systems' published in 2004 following wide consultation with stakeholders; ■ where appropriate, working with other Fire and Rescue Authorities and other emergency services, take steps to drive down the number of hoax calls and unwanted signals from automatic fire 	<p>No major changes</p>	<p>No additional implications.</p>	<p>No significant changes to existing 'Should do' task.</p>

⁴ See: www.odpm.gov.uk/falsealarms

⁵ See: www.fire-uk.org/pubs/RMFA_CFOA_Policy_Final.pdf

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Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> log the callers and properties that create the greatest demand, assess the risks associated with them, and decide upon action to achieve improvement, which may include increased fire prevention work or a changed level of response. 	<p>alarms; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> log the callers and properties that create the greatest demand, assess the risks associated with them, and decide upon action to achieve improvement, which may include increased fire prevention work or a changed level of response. 			
3.12 Fire and Rescue Authorities should actively review the opportunities for improving community safety by implementing co-responder schemes in partnership with other agencies.	3.12 Fire and Rescue Authorities Should Therefore Explore the benefits of implementing co-responder schemes in partnership with other agencies.	F&RAs are encouraged to ' <i>actively review</i> ' opportunities for co-responder schemes.	No additional implications.	F&RAs ' <i>Should</i> ' <i>actively review</i> opportunities for co-responder schemes.
3.15 Authorities should, therefore, design their IRMPs to ensure that, so far as practical, there is efficient and effective shared use of resources, particularly, for example: the services of principal, senior and specialist officers; pumping and non-pumping appliances, such as those used for aerial access; equipment used in traffic accident response and the bulk supply of water; and specialist support services such as rope rescue teams.	3.15 Authorities Should, therefore, design their IRMPs to ensure that, so far as practical, there is greater shared use of resources, particularly, for example: the services of senior officers ⁶ ; pumping and non-pumping appliances, such as those used for aerial access; equipment used in traffic accident response and the bulk supply of water; and specialist support services such as rope rescue teams.	Inclusion of 'Principal and Specialist Officers' within new draft paragraph.	No additional implications.	In addition to the earlier Framework requirements, F&RAs ' <i>Should</i> ' incorporate within their IRMPs the shared use of <i>Principal and Specialist Officers</i> .
3.19 Common policies, practices and procedures for the operational management and command of emergencies are essential.	3.19 Common policies, practices and procedures for the operational management and command of emergencies are essential.	No changes.	No additional implications.	No changes to existing ' <i>Should do</i> ' task.

⁶ The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 repeals ss30(3) and 30(6) of the Fire Services Act 1947 under which sole control of a fire was placed on the senior officer present from the fire and rescue service of the area in which the fire originated. This SHOULD allow greater flexibility in the sharing of senior officers.

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>To ensure a consistent operational approach the Service should adopt the principles and procedures detailed in the Fire Service Manual Vol. 2: Fire Service Operations - Incident Command. This will help to ensure the adoption nationwide of common arrangements and the safe and effective management of operations.</p> <p>CFOA and HMFSI will work together to maintain the Manual's currency in response to new threats and emerging issues. The Manual, together with the Cabinet Office publication, Dealing with Disaster - 3rd Revision, provides the template for regular inter-service training and exercising and will form an integral part of the training at the Fire Service College (see paragraph 6.16 - 6.22). The Fire Service College will also provide a centre of specialist expertise in urban search and rescue and related major emergency incident techniques.</p>	<p>To ensure a consistent operational approach the Service Should adopt the principles and procedures detailed in the Fire Service Manual Vol. 2: Fire Service Operations - Incident Command⁷. This will help to ensure the adoption nationwide of common arrangements and the safe and effective management of operations. CFOA and HMFSI will work together to maintain the Manual's currency in response to new threats and emerging issues. The Manual, together with the Cabinet Office publication, Dealing with Disaster - 3rd Revision⁸, provides the template for regular inter-service training and exercising and will form an integral part of the training at the Fire Service College (see paragraph 6.16 - 6.22). The Fire Service College will also provide a centre of specialist expertise in urban search and rescue and related major emergency incident techniques.</p>			
<p>3.25 Using the model protocol and the supporting NOSs, Fire and Rescue Authorities should, through Regional Management Boards, ensure specialist fire investigation capacity is pooled to provide an effective and efficient regional capability.</p>	<p>3.25 Through Regional Management Boards, Fire And Rescue Authorities Should pool specialist fire investigation capacity to provide an effective regional capability.</p>	<p>Model protocols to be adopted for Fire Investigation (FI).</p>	<p>WMRMB 'Should' adopt model protocols for use by pooled regional FI Team(s).</p>	<p>F&RAs 'Should' support WMRMB in the adoption of model protocols for use by pooled regional FI Team(s).</p>

⁷ Fire Service Manual Vol. 2: *Fire Service Operations - Incident Command* (ODPM 2002).

⁸ *Dealing with Disaster - 3rd Revision* (Cabinet Office 2003).

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>3.30 Following CPA, HMFSI and others will work in conjunction with the Fire and Rescue Service Improvement Team in responding to the outcomes of CPA and supporting improvement planning and operational self assurance by Fire and Rescue Authorities.</p>		New paragraph.	No significant implications for WMRMB.	No significant implications for F&RAs.
<p>3.31 HMFSI will work with stakeholders to review all existing guidance relating to operational, technical and professional matters (see Annex D), and to disseminate good practice. This review should result in the availability of simplified and more easily accessible guidance from Summer 2006. It will include a performance assessment document, currently under development between HMFSI and CFOA which will provide a common, single, national standard for self, peer and body assessment.</p>		<p>New paragraph.</p> <p><i>WMRMB are supporting this activity through the development of a national operational assurance methodology.</i></p>	WMRMB are supporting this activity through the development of a national operational assurance methodology.	F&RAs will be required to complete operational assurance assessments during 2006.
Chapter 4: Resilience				
<p>4.6 It is likely that an Emergencies Order would make it a statutory duty for Fire and Rescue Authorities to make provision using New Dimension resources for the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decontamination of people following the release of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear substances; • freeing of people from collapsed structures and non-road transport wreckages or debris; • rescue of people trapped by flooding. 		New implied duty on F&RAs not hosting New Dimensions resources	No significant implications for WMRMB.	F&RAs not hosting New Dimensions' resources to participate in reinforcement schemes.

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>Fire and Rescue Authorities not hosting New Dimension resources would be expected to meet any statutory duty by participating in reinforcement schemes for mutual assistance. But Fire and Rescue Authorities would not be expected to make any additional provision in terms of equipment, crewing or training beyond that provided by the New Dimension programme.</p>				
<p>4.8 The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 became law on 18 November 2004. In July the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) Regulations 2005 and supporting statutory guidance, Emergency Preparedness, were published. Supplementary non-statutory guidance, Emergency Response and Recovery, was published in September. For the purposes of Fire and Rescue Authorities, Part 1 of the Act, which covers local arrangements for civil protection, comes into force on the 14 November 2005. Part 2 of the Act, dealing with emergency powers, is already in force, but will only be used in the most serious emergencies and as a last resort.</p>		<p>New guidance issued.</p>	<p>No significant implications for WMRMB.</p>	<p>F&RAs may wish to consider and adopt new guidance.</p>
<p>4.9 As a consequence of this Act, Fire and Rescue Authorities, through Regional Management Boards where appropriate, must work in co-operation with other emergency services, local authorities and front line responders at the local level to:</p>	<p>4.6 As a consequence of this Act, Fire and Rescue Authorities, through Regional Management Boards where appropriate, must work in co-operation with other emergency services, local Authorities and front line responders at the local level to:</p>	<p>Revision of existing paragraph. Key addition – <i>'co-operate with other local responders to</i></p>	<p>WMRMB 'Must,' in addition to previous requirements, also co-operate with other local responders to</p>	<p>F&RAs 'Must' support WMRMB to co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform emergency planning and business continuity planning; • put in place emergency plans, supported by appropriate training, exercising, validation and revision processes; • put in place business continuity plans, so that the authority can continue to function in an emergency; • put in place arrangements to make information available to the public about civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency; • share information with other local responders to enhance co-ordination; and, • co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ assess the risk of an emergency occurring; ■ put in place emergency contingency plans and conduct exercises to ensure that they can both prevent and respond to emergencies; ■ establish business continuity management arrangements, so that an authority can function in an emergency; ■ share information with other local emergency responders; and ■ inform the public about civil protection in order to reduce, control or mitigate the effects of emergencies. 	<p><i>enhance co-ordination and efficiency.'</i></p>	<p>enhance co-ordination and efficiency.</p>	<p>efficiency.</p>
<p>4.30 Fire and Rescue Authorities have a central role to play in the successful roll-out of Firelink. In England Firelink Regional Roll-out Boards will be formed. These will be a partnership between Fire and Rescue Authorities, the Firelink project and the contractor. The function of the Boards will be to oversee and co-ordinate the implementation of the Firelink solution in the applicable Fire and</p>		<p>New regional Firelink Boards to be established.</p>	<p>Possible role conflict with activities of WMRMB in supporting delivery of Firelink.</p>	<p>F&RAs will work with new Firelink Regional Roll-out Boards.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>Rescue Authority region within contractually agreed timescales.</p> <p>4.31 The functions of the Regional Roll-out Boards are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engage Fire and Rescue Authorities in the smooth, effective and co-ordinated rollout of Firelink; • oversee the implementation of the Firelink Solution in the applicable Fire and Rescue Authority area in accordance with contract terms; and, • maximise the strength of the ODPM's contractual positions, and support the fulfilment of and compliance with ODPM obligations. 				
Chapter 5: Fire and Rescue Staff				
<p>5.2 Fire and Rescue Authorities must ensure that all members of staff are treated fairly and afforded equality of opportunity. Fire and Rescue Authorities should ensure that all staff are developed in a way which takes account of the differing needs of the individual, in order to deliver the Authority's aims and objectives effectively.</p> <p>It is not about providing more training and development, but about ensuring that training is better tailored to the needs of each member of the workforce than it has been in the past.</p>	<p>5.2 Fire and Rescue Authorities must ensure that all members of staff are treated fairly and afforded equality of opportunity. They should ensure that all staff are developed in a way which takes account of the differing needs of the individual, in order to deliver the Fire and Rescue Service's aims and objectives effectively. It is not about providing more training and development, but about ensuring that it is better tailored to the needs of the workforce as a whole than it has been in the past.</p>	No changes	No additional implications.	No changes to existing 'Must do' task.

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
	past.			
5.4. ...Fire and Rescue Authorities should ensure that there is as much opportunity as is reasonably possible for people to work flexibly, for example on a part-time basis, using flexi-time or working as part of a job share partnership.	5.4 ...Fire and Rescue Authorities should ensure that there is as much opportunity as is reasonably possible for people to work flexibly, for example on a part-time basis, using flexi-time or working as part of a job share arrangement.	No significant changes	No additional implications.	No significant changes to existing 'Should do' task.
5.8 Fire and Rescue Authorities should ensure that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make full and efficient use of staff on the retained duty system in line with the needs in their IRMPs; • give staff on the retained duty system access to development opportunities comparable to those for wholetime duty system and other staff; and • break down artificial barriers between staff on the retained duty system and other staff, including where appropriate exploring options such as mixed crewing and providing wholetime duty system staff with the opportunity to undertake additional service on the retained duty system. 	5.8 Fire and Rescue Authorities Should ensure that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ make full use of staff on the retained duty system in line with the needs in their IRMPs; ■ give staff on the retained duty system access to development opportunities comparable to those for wholetime and other staff; and ■ break down artificial barriers between staff on the retained duty system and other staff, including where appropriate exploring options such as mixed crewing and providing wholetime staff with the opportunity to undertake additional service on the retained duty system. 	No changes.	No additional implications.	No changes to existing 'Should do' task.

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>5.12 Fire and Rescue Authorities, through Regional Management Boards, should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> draw up a regional HR strategy by summer 2006, encompassing recruitment, learning and development (see Chapter 6), occupational health, health and safety, medical advice services, sickness/ill health management, discipline, mobility and a regional equalities strategy; and identify and implement the most efficient and effective means for the region to deliver these services, including through lead authorities or outsourcing where appropriate. 	<p>5.12 Fire and Rescue Authorities, Through Regional Management Boards, Should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> draw up a regional HR strategy, encompassing recruitment, training and development (see Chapter 6), occupational health, health and safety, medical advice services, sickness/ill-health management, discipline, mobility and a regional equalities strategy; and identify and implement the most efficient and effective means for the region to deliver these services, including through lead Authorities or outsourcing where appropriate. 	<p>Timescale now set for development of regional HR Strategy – Summer 2006.</p>	<p>WMRMB 'Should' now draw up a regional HR strategy by summer 2006.</p>	<p>F&RAs to support WMRMB in drawing up a regional HR strategy by summer 2006.</p>
<p>5.15 To help Fire and Rescue Authorities improve their performance the race and gender employment targets agreed and set in 1999 (for minority ethnic staff) and 2000 (for women) have been reviewed. A new strategy will be published in 2006 following consultation with stakeholders. The strategy will continue to encourage greater diversity amongst applicants and appointees and promote equality of opportunity in career progression; it will aim to improve diversity at all levels of the organisation and reduce the number of staff from currently under-represented groups leaving the service prior to retirement. Fire and Rescue Authorities will, as at present, be monitored on their</p>	<p>5.15 The Service needs to improve its performance. ODPM inherited targets set by the Home Office (see Annex B) to encourage fire and rescue services to increase the representation of women in the operational workforce to 15% and ethnic minority staff in the workforce as a whole to 7% by April 2009. Achieving greater diversity within the Service is clearly the responsibility of Fire and Rescue Authorities. However, ODPM is fully supportive of this aim and will work with partners to develop a strategy on equality and diversity supported by a national programme.</p>	<p>Existing paragraph replaced, signalling the issue of a new strategy during 2006.</p>	<p>Unable to assess impact at this stage.</p>	<p>Unable to assess impact at this stage.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
performance against the requirements of the strategy.				
5.17 Fire and Rescue Authorities, through Regional Management Boards, should produce an equalities strategy as part of their regional Human Resources strategy (as set out in paragraph 5.12). Regional HR strategies should be compatible with local IRMPs. It is for each Regional Management Board to decide which issues, in addition to those set out in paragraph 5.12, are best dealt with in the regional strategy and those which fall within IRMPs, and to ensure that there is a fit.	5.17 Fire and Rescue Authorities, through Regional Management Boards, Should produce an equalities strategy as part of their regional HR strategy (as set out in paragraph 5.12) which Should include stretching but achievable targets for improvement. Regional HR strategies Should be compatible with local IRMPs. It is for each Regional Management Board to decide which issues, in addition to those set out in paragraph 5.12, are best dealt with in the regional strategy and those which fall within IRMPs, and to ensure that there is a fit.	Existing paragraph 5.12 to be replaced, signalling the issue of a new strategy during 2006. This will impact upon paragraph 5.17	Unable to assess impact at this stage.	Unable to assess impact at this stage.
	5.18 It is the responsibility of the Fire and Rescue authorities to appoint, develop and promote staff on the basis of good practice in accordance with legal requirements. With the introduction of the Fire and Rescue Services Act on 1 October 2004 the Fire Services (Appointments and Promotion) (England and Wales) Regulations 2004 were repealed. For those staff previously subject to the above regulations, Fire and Rescue Authorities Should have regard to the principles of IPDS (see	Paragraph now removed.	The deletion of this paragraph will impact upon existing WMRMB HR project objectives/activities.	The deletion of this paragraph will impact upon F&RAs supporting existing WMRMB HR project objectives/activities.

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
	Chapter 6), including the Personal Qualities and Attributes Framework ⁹ . The provisions of the national firefighter selection tests will be introduced in Spring 2005 and will inform Regional Management Boards' regional recruitment procedures.			
5.19 In recruiting staff Fire and Rescue Authorities must ensure they comply with the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 Section 36(1)(a-h), by carrying out Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure checks on those who will be working with children and vulnerable adults.		New 'Must do' paragraph.	No implications for WMRMB	New 'Must do' paragraph for F&RAs to comply with.
	5.20 Fire and Rescue Authorities, through Regional Management Boards where appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MUST comply with existing equality legislation on race and gender; the regulations on sexual orientation, religion or belief; the requirements of the Disability Discrimination (Amendment) Act 2003; and, in due course, with regulations on equal treatment and age; and ■ SHOULD apply identified good practice. 	Paragraph now removed.	The deletion of this paragraph will impact upon existing WMRMB HR project objectives/ activities. Further impact assessment to be undertaken.	The deletion of this paragraph will impact upon F&RAs supporting existing WMRMB HR project objectives/ activities.
5.21 In September 2005 Government consulted on the new arrangements for the selection of firefighters and control and operational managers. The consultation		New draft paragraph, final paragraph will have	Unable to assess impact at this stage.	Unable to assess impact at this stage.

⁹ See Fire and Rescue Service Circular 51-2004

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>presented a number of options and questions and it is expected that the 2006/2008 Framework will state the outcome of this consultation process. The options set out in the consultation process were:</p> <p>[Option 1] Use the national processes for recruitment [Option 2] Ensure that their processes for recruitment meet national quality standards [Option 3] Use national Personal Qualities and Attributes (PQAs) to assess people's potential for new operational and control roles. This applies both to people being recruited to the Service and those wishing to progress within it (see chapter 6).</p>		amendments.		
<p>5.28 The Health and Safety Executive in partnership with ODPM will be undertaking a study of sickness absence in the Fire and Rescue Service to identify, where possible, the main underlying causes of sickness absence in the Service. The programme of research is due to commence in Spring 2006 the final report is expected to be delivered during Spring 2007. The findings of the research will be used as the basis for the introduction of revised sickness absence targets. The study will also help to identify areas of good practice in the reduction and management of sickness absence. It is, however, the responsibility of the Fire and Rescue Authorities to implement process and procedures which effectively tackle ill health absence issues.</p>		<p>New paragraph.</p> <p>Unable to assess impact at this stage.</p>	<p>Unable to assess impact at this stage, but likely to have consequences for WMRMB HR project.</p>	<p>Unable to assess impact at this stage, but likely to have consequences for F&RAs supporting WMRMB HR project.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>5.31 The Government has amended the Firefighters' Pension Scheme to enable Fire and Rescue Authorities to continue to draw on the experience of trained firefighters who may no longer be fit to undertake firefighting duties, rather than retiring them with an ill health pension. Fire and Rescue Authorities should use independent medical assessment - whose opinion is binding - before approving applications for early retirement on ill health grounds.</p> <p>5.32 Fire and Rescue Authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that their occupational health arrangements including the provision of occupational health advice are efficient and effective, • ensure that full consideration is given to the health and fitness of all staff and that they are assigned to appropriate roles; • introduce and administer effective absence management processes and procedures to facilitate the achievement of Government targets on the reduction of sickness absence and ill health retirements, and • consider the cost and organisational benefits of operating their occupational health arrangements on a regional basis. 	<p>5.28 The Government has amended the Firefighters' Pension Scheme to enable Fire and Rescue Authorities to continue to draw on the experience of trained firefighters who may no longer be fit to undertake firefighting duties, rather than have to retire them with an ill-health pension. The amendments also place an obligation on Fire and Rescue Authorities to use independent medical assessment - whose opinion is binding - before approving applications for early retirement on ill-health grounds.</p> <p>5.29 Fire and Rescue Authorities Should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ensure that their occupational health arrangements including the provision of occupational health advice are efficient and effective; ■ ensure that full consideration is given to the health and fitness of all staff and that they are assigned to appropriate roles; ■ introduce and administer effective absence management processes and procedures to facilitate the achievement of Government targets on the reduction of sickness absence and ill-health retirements; and ■ consider the cost and organisational benefits of operating their occupational health arrangements on a regional basis. 	<p>'Obligation.' replaced with 'Should'</p>	<p>No implications for WMRMB</p>	<p>'Should do' requirement now placed upon F&RAs to use independent medical assessments.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			

Chapter 6: Workforce Development				
<p>6.5 The demands of the resilience agenda and emerging European training and development legislation underline the need for standard systems of work and consistent processes. A number of the components of IPDS provide the foundation for this. In partnership with stake-holders, the Government has developed and published a Personal Qualities and Attributes (PQAs) Framework and has developed tools against which people can be assessed against the PQAs. In September 2005, Government issued a consultation about new arrangements for the recruitment of firefighters and the progression of operational and control managers in the Service. That consultation presents a number of options and questions including whether the 2006/8 National Framework should state that Fire and Rescue Authorities should comply with one of the following three statements.</p> <p>Option One: Fire and Rescue Authorities should use national processes for the progression of operational and control staff.</p> <p>Option Two: Fire and Rescue Authorities should ensure that their processes for the progression of operational and control staff should meet</p>		<p>New paragraph outlining current consultation exercise.</p>	<p>Unable to assess impact at this stage.</p>	<p>Unable to assess impact at this stage.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>national quality standards.</p> <p>Option Three: Fire and Rescue Authorities should use national Personal Qualities and Attributes to assess people's potential for new operational and control roles.</p>				
<p>6.6 In adopting and implementing IPDS, Fire and Rescue Authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that the development of its staff underpins and supports the delivery of its IRMP; • put in place systems and train managers to ensure that staff are assessed fairly against national standards, with overall performance regularly reviewed, and workplace assessments carried out and recorded consistently; • consider how collaborative working may maximise the benefit from available resources for IPDS; • support the use of any pay flexibilities currently available with robust evidence, for example on recruitment and retention needs and through job evaluation exercises; and • communicate all changes to staff effectively. 	<p>6.7 In adopting and implementing IPDS, Fire and Rescue Authorities Should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ use the nationally developed personal qualities and attributes for assessing the potential of candidates for a new operational or control role; ■ put in place systems and train managers to ensure that staff are assessed fairly against national standards and that workplace assessments are recorded consistently, as required under the June 2003 pay and modernisation agreement; ■ consider how collaborative working may maximise the benefit from available resources for IPDS; ■ support the use of any pay flexibilities currently available with robust evidence, for example on recruitment and retention needs and through job evaluation exercises; and ■ communicate all changes to staff effectively. 	<p>Existing paragraph amended. Key change – <i>'with overall performance regularly reviewed.'</i></p>	<p>No additional implications.</p>	<p>No significant changes to existing 'Should do' task.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>6.11 The Government believes that it is important that most efficient and effective use is made of local training facilities, and that there may be scope for some facilities to be shared at a regional level.</p> <p>Fire and Rescue Authorities, through Regional Management Boards should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek to ensure that learning and development is carried out in ways that reflect the principles set out in the LDS; • support and monitor the delivery of learning and development in accordance with the key elements of the LDS; • ensure that learning and development forms part of regional HR strategies (see Chapter 5); and • review the use currently made of existing facilities and resources and ensure those are used to deliver training as efficiently and effectively as possible, the reviews to be completed by March 2007; 	<p>6.11 The Government believes that it is most efficient and effective if some facilities are shared at a regional level. Fire and Rescue Authorities, Through Regional Management Boards, should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ review the use currently made of existing facilities and resources and ensure those are used to deliver training as efficiently and effectively as possible; and ■ deliver training and development in accordance with national standards to support all staff who are either working towards or seeking to maintain competence against relevant standards. 	<p>Significant changes to paragraph.</p> <p>Time scale set to review facilities by March 2007.</p>	<p>Existing 'Should do' paragraph activities being undertaken by WMRMB HR project will require review amendment to incorporate additional requirements of paragraph 6.11.</p>	<p>Existing 'Should do' paragraph activities being undertaken by WMRMB HR project and supported by F&RAs will require review and amendment to incorporate additional requirements of paragraph 6.11.</p>
<p>6.14 Following a financial review of the College, it has been decided that it will no longer be a trading fund. The College will however continue to charge for its products.</p>		<p>New paragraph.</p>	<p>No significant impact upon WMRMB.</p>	<p>No significant impact upon F&RAs.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>6.16 Government will shortly be issuing a consultation paper recommending a new approach to leadership within the Fire and Rescue Service. The consultation paper reflects the work of two Task and Finish Groups, each representing key stake-holders, established by the IPDS Project Board in 2004.</p> <p>6.17 The consultation paper proposes the introduction of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a transformational leadership model the principles of which are applicable to all levels of the service where leadership is required; • a framework for leadership learning and development providing a structured approach that ensures the development of current and future leaders and managers; • a Strategic Leadership Development Programme providing managed programmes of learning and development for individuals identified as having the potential to reach and succeed at the strategic manager levels. This will include an Executive Leadership Programme, a Chief Officers' Executive Development Programme and an Area Managers' Strategic Development Programme; and • a High Potential Management 		<p>New paragraph.</p> <p>Consultation paper issued for comment.</p>	<p>Unable to assess impact at this stage.</p>	<p>Unable to assess impact at this stage.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
Development scheme providing accelerated progression through a managed programme of learning and development for individuals identified as having the potential to reach and succeed at middle manager levels.				
6.18 The consultation raises a number of questions about the intended approach but, subject to responses to the consultation, Government expects that the 2006/8 National Framework will state that Fire and Rescue Authorities should ensure that all their staff have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the approach to leadership learning and development proposed in the consultation paper.		New 'Should do' paragraph.	Unable to assess impact at this stage.	Unable to assess impact at this stage.
	6.18 Fire and Rescue Authorities Should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ develop and support existing staff in their leadership functions; ■ encourage interchange of staff between Authorities and with outside organisations; and ■ make use of the new flexibilities for recruitment. 	Paragraph removed	No impact upon WMRMB.	Possible loss of opportunity for F&RAs staff, although proposals under new draft paragraph 6.17 may offset removal of existing paragraph 6.18.

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			

Chapter 7: Finance										
7.2 Fire and Rescue Authorities should develop fully the opportunities for efficiency improvements, including through collaboration, consistent with their duties under Best Value and the Government's objectives to reduce accidental deaths from fire in the home and deliberate fires.	7.2 Fire and Rescue Authorities Should develop fully the opportunities for efficiency improvements, including through collaboration, consistent with their duties under Best Value and the Government's objectives to reduce accidental deaths from fire in the home and deliberate fires.	No changes to existing paragraph.	No additional implications.	No significant changes to existing 'Should do' task.						
7.4 All English Fire and Rescue Authorities should report their efficiency gains through Annual Efficiency Statements as described in Fire Service Circular 48/2005. The timetable for this is as follows:										
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Action</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>17 Nov 2005</td> <td>Fire and Rescue Authorities submit the forward part of the AES, looking ahead to the year 2005/6 and the backward part of the AES, looking at countable efficiency gains for 2004/5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 April 2006</td> <td>Fire and Rescue Authorities submit the forward part of the AES,</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Action	17 Nov 2005	Fire and Rescue Authorities submit the forward part of the AES, looking ahead to the year 2005/6 and the backward part of the AES, looking at countable efficiency gains for 2004/5	14 April 2006	Fire and Rescue Authorities submit the forward part of the AES,		New paragraph.	No additional implications.	F&RAs 'Should' now submit Annual Efficiency Statements.
Date	Action									
17 Nov 2005	Fire and Rescue Authorities submit the forward part of the AES, looking ahead to the year 2005/6 and the backward part of the AES, looking at countable efficiency gains for 2004/5									
14 April 2006	Fire and Rescue Authorities submit the forward part of the AES,									

Draft National Framework 2006-08		Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph		Existing Paragraph			
	looking ahead to the year 2006/7				
16 June 2006	Fire and Rescue Authorities submit the backward part of the AES, setting out efficiency gains achieved in 2005/6				
17 Nov 2006	Fire and Rescue Authorities that do not have 'Excellent' CPA status are required to provide a mid-year update to ODPM. Those with 'Excellent' status are invited to do so.				
7.5 A lot of activity is already taking place in Fire and Rescue Authorities aimed at increasing efficiency, some of it pre-dating this target, in areas such as shift patterns, crewing arrangements, appropriate use of overtime, reducing sickness and other absences, minimising ill-health retirements, collaboration, partnerships, procurement, risk management, driving down false automatic fire alarms, better use of retained firefighters, civilianisation and capital investment. Different Fire and Rescue Authorities face different challenges and have adopted a wide variety of approaches to achieving efficiency in these and other areas. Many Fire and Rescue Authorities have expressed a desire to know what others are			New paragraph.	No implications for WMRMB (other than sharing of best practice within region)	F&RAS 'Should' now consider actively for themselves whether any of these approaches identified in the guidance might work for them.

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>doing to increase efficiency and to share experiences to date. The CFOA, LGA and ODPM are therefore joining forces to bring together a number of brief case studies from across the Service and disseminate these to all Fire and Rescue Authorities in a series of guidance notes. The intended purpose of making these case studies widely available is to ensure that all Fire and Rescue Authorities at least know how other Fire and Rescue Authorities are approaching achieving efficiency gains.</p> <p>Fire and Rescue Authorities should consider actively for themselves whether any of these approaches identified in the guidance might work for them.</p> <p>It is hoped that this guidance will grow in coverage and depth over time. Fire and Rescue Authorities are asked to share with CFOA, LGA and ODPM what they are doing to achieve efficiency gains so that appropriate information can be included in updates to existing and further new guidance. The more experience that can be shared, the easier it should be for the Fire and Rescue Service as a whole to increase efficiency and meet the target.</p>				
<p>7.8 The Government expects all Fire and Rescue Authorities to ensure they do not set excessive increases in 06/07 and 07/08. We</p>		New paragraph.	No implications for WMRMB.	Implications for F&RAs that set excessive future

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
made clear in our General Election manifesto that we would not hesitate to use our capping powers to protect council taxpayers from excessive rises in future years.				budget increases.
<p>Three Year Settlements</p> <p>7.9 Spending Review 2004 announced that the Government would be introducing three year revenue and capital settlements for local, police and Fire and Rescue Authorities. The purpose of this change is to maximise the benefits of three year spending plans for central government departments by cascading them down to the maximum extent possible. A consultation paper on this subject was issued by the ODPM in December 2004 with the analysis of responses issued in June 2005. The Government's proposals were issued on the 19 July 2005.</p>	<p>Three Year Settlements</p> <p>7.7 Spending Review 2004 announced that the Government would be introducing three year revenue and capital settlements for local police and Fire and Rescue Authorities. The purpose of this change is to maximise the benefits of three year spending plans for central government departments by cascading them down to the maximum extent possible. To that end the Government aims to issue proposals for consultation by the end of 2005.</p>	Move to three-year local government finance settlements	No implications for WMRMB.	Implications for F&RAs budget planning and setting.
<p>7.11 New financial arrangements for firefighter pensions are to be announced in Autumn 2005 for implementation on 1 April 2006. This means that from 1 April 2006 employee contributions and a new employer's contribution will be paid by Fire and Rescue Authorities into their pensions account from which pensions outgo (pensions awards and lump sum payments) will be met. Government will top up the account at the end of the year, or recover any surplus, as necessary. The underlying principle is that employer and employee contributions together meets the full</p>		New paragraph.	No implications for WMRMB.	Implications for F&RAs budget planning and setting.

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>costs of liabilities being accrued while central Government met the costs of retirement pensions, net of employee and employer contributions. Authorities will retain responsibility for paying pension awards. Appropriate adjustments will be made in the level of grant so that neither local nor national taxpayers will be disadvantaged. These new arrangements counter the yearly volatility in pensions expenditure and increase transparency in that from 1 April 2006 Fire and Rescue Authorities' budgets will accurately reflect the ongoing, accruing costs of providing the frontline service.</p>				
<p>Supported Capital Expenditure 7.14 ODPM expects to inform English Fire and Rescue Authorities of the amounts of supported capital expenditure which each can expect to receive in 2006/07 and 2007/08 alongside the forthcoming two-year Local Government Finance Settlement and repeat these in the final version of this Framework.</p>	<p>Supported Capital Expenditure 7.12 According to the provisional local government settlement, the Government will also distribute £57.98 million in supported capital expenditure to English Fire and Rescue Authorities in 2005/06. ODPM has informed English Fire and Rescue Authorities of the amount of supported capital expenditure which each can expect to receive alongside the provisional local government settlement. Following devolution of capital funding of Welsh Fire and Rescue Authorities to the Welsh Assembly Government, it is now responsible for distributing supported capital expenditure to Welsh Fire and Rescue Authorities.</p>	<p>Final edition of Framework will report settlements.</p>	<p>No implications for WMRMB.</p>	<p>Implications for F&RAs budget planning and setting.</p>
<p>7.18 For the New Dimension programme,</p>		<p>New</p>	<p>No implications for</p>	<p>Implications for</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
Government has committed up to £188m in capital investment as well as providing up to £16m a year to help meet the crewing needs of this investment. New Dimension is due to complete its roll-out of capability by spring 2007. For the Firelink project, Government has committed to fund the procurement and capital costs of the new wide-area radio system for the Fire and Rescue Service.		announcement that Government will fund procurement and capital costs of new radio system.	WMRMB.	F&RAs budget planning and setting.
7.19 An Emergencies Order underpinning the New Dimension programme is planned to be made in 2006. It would only take effect once the New Dimension capabilities are fully operational from spring 2007 (See Chapter 4). Whilst these are being rolled out, Fire and Rescue Authorities will not be expected to incur additional expenditure. Government will act in accordance with the 'new burdens principle' (explained more fully in paragraph 7.29). This would ensure that any new burden to Fire and Rescue Authorities arising from an Emergencies Order would be agreed after discussion between the Government, the LGA and CFOA.		New paragraph.	No implications for WMRMB.	Implications for F&RAs budget planning and setting.
7.22 The HM Treasury/Cabinet Office Invest to Save Budget aims to 'Encourage innovation and partnership throughout the public sector, in order to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of public services'. Projects are appointed with a view to the resulting learning and benefits that come out of them		New paragraph.	ISB funding opportunities may be available to WMRMB.	ISB funding opportunities may be available to F&RAs.

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Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>being able to be applied by others more widely. Criteria change from year to year and although there is no guarantee that a scheme will continue in future years, Fire and Rescue Authorities with an interest should refer to the ISB website (http://www.isb.gov.uk/hmt.isb.application.2/index.asp).</p>				
<p>7.23 Fire Service Circular 2005 highlights some further existing grants that Fire and Rescue Authorities may wish to apply for either directly or through their partners.</p>		New paragraph.	ISB funding opportunities may be available to WMRMB.	ISB funding opportunities may be available to F&RAs.
<p><i>FiReBuy</i> 7.24 ODPM has met the costs of establishing FiReBuy Ltd, this includes £800,000 spend on the Integrated Clothing Project that Fire and Rescue Authorities had expected to meet from their own budgets during 2005/06. In 2006/07 and 2007/08 ODPM will fund up to £1.8m, each year, for running FiReBuy Ltd. ODPM will work with Fire and Rescue Authorities in 2006 to attempt to identify a future funding mechanism including cost recovery.</p>		New paragraph.	Possible implications to WMRMB Procurement project.	Possible implications to F&RAs supporting WMRMB Procurement project.
<p>7.26 Section 19 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 preserves a power to charge for responding to incidents other than fire calls and ensures that emergency medical assistance is free at the point of delivery. By</p>	<p>7.20 Section 19 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 preserves a power to charge for responding to incidents other than fire calls and ensures that emergency medical assistance is free at the point of delivery. By</p>	No significant changes to existing paragraph.	No additional impact upon WMRMB.	No significant additional impact upon F&RAs.

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Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>"charge" we mean the recovery of up to the full costs incurred by the Fire and Rescue Authority in providing that service to distinguish it from "trading", which is considered in paragraph below. The first Order made under Section 19 came into effect on 1st October 2004 and specifies all services for which at least one English Fire and Rescue Authority was charging as at 1st April 2004. Fire and Rescue Authorities should consider very carefully whether the costs of providing the non-statutory services specified in the Order should fall on those who requested the service or on council tax payers.</p>	<p>"charge" we mean the recovery of up to the full costs incurred by the authority in providing that service to distinguish it from "trading", which is considered in paragraph 7.21 below. The first Order made under Section 19 came into effect on 1 October 2004 and specifies all services for which at least one English Fire and Rescue Authority was charging as at 1 April 2004. Authorities will wish to consider very carefully whether the costs of providing the non-statutory services specified in the Order should fall on those who requested the service or on council tax payers.</p>			
<p>7.27 A number of Fire and Rescue Authorities have become accustomed to recovering an element of profit when setting their fees for services such as training and safety consultancy. In normal circumstances we would consider that this commercially based activity should be permitted only as part of a flexibilities package following a favourable assessment under the CPA process. However, during our consultation on the Section 19 power forceful representations were made that we should ensure that these income streams were not put at risk during 2005 by the new charging regime. For that reason we made a trading Order under section 95 of the Local Government Act 2003 to cover all services in which named English Fire and Rescue Authorities were trading on 1st April 2004. The Order was reviewed after the introduction of a</p>	<p>7.21 A number of Authorities have become accustomed to recovering an element of profit when setting their fees for services such as training and safety consultancy. This is known as "trading". In normal circumstances we would consider that this commercially based activity should be permitted only as part of a flexibilities package following a favourable assessment under the CPA process. However, during our consultation on the Section 19 power, forceful representations were made that we should ensure that these income streams were not put at risk during 2005 by the new charging regime. For that reason we made a trading Order under section 95 of the Local Government Act 2003 to cover all services in which named English Fire and Rescue Authorities were trading on 1 April 2004. The Order will be reviewed after</p>	<p>Amendments made to existing paragraph.</p>	<p>No additional impact upon WMRMB.</p>	<p>ODPM expects to issue guidance on the charging and trading Orders in 2006 to F&RAs.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>CPA for Fire and Rescue Authorities in 2005. Although this arrangement means that trading must be conducted through a company structure, with associated costs, authorities must price their services at market rates in the interests of fair competition.</p> <p>7.28 ODPM expects to issue guidance on the charging and trading Orders in 2006.</p>	<p>the introduction of a CPA for Fire and Rescue Authorities in 2005. Although this arrangement requires trading to be conducted through a company structure, with associated costs, Authorities will be required to price their services at market rates in the interests of fair competition.</p>			
<p>'New Burdens' Principle</p> <p>7.29 Where a central government department's policies or initiatives increase the cost of providing local authority services, the 'new burdens' principle means that the Government will fund the additional expenditure., provided that the aggregate value of the burdens across all authorities in any financial year is greater than £100,000. A procedure has been agreed with the LGA for assessing new burdens costs.</p>		<p>New paragraph summarising 'New Burdens.'</p>	<p>No additional impact upon WMRMB.</p>	<p>No additional impact upon F&RAs.</p>
Chapter 8: Performance Management				
<p>8.6 To help Fire and Rescue Authorities deliver their improvement plans, a range of support is available through the jointly funded ODPM/LGA Capacity Building Programme. ODPM has been working with the Performance Partnership and with contractors on the Local</p>		<p>New paragraph outlining funding opportunities.</p>	<p>Funding opportunities may be available to WMRMB.</p>	<p>Funding opportunities may be available to F&RAs.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>Government Capacity Building Framework Contract in order to provide national capacity - building programmes for local government in a range of areas, such as performance management and training for elected members. Fire and Rescue Authorities have direct access to these training programmes. In addition each region is in the process of establishing a regional improvement partnership, consisting either of local authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities or of Fire and Rescue Authorities separately. Funding will be channelled through these to directly support innovation and poor performance. Business Change Managers (see paragraph 8.12) act as the link to ODPM Regional Directors of Practice in each Government Office. They facilitate access for Fire and Rescue Authorities to regional improvement partnerships, and the funding they provide.</p>				
<p>Promoting Good and Notable Practice</p> <p>8.11 A sound body of good practice is critical to improving performance to meet the challenges facing the Service. There is already a broad consensus on the need to identify, validate and disseminate good or notable practice to Fire and Rescue Authorities in a systematic manner, particularly on securing efficiency savings and on fire prevention, where the evidence base is currently limited. We now intend to establish a permanent framework for</p>		<p>New paragraph detailing proposals to share good practice.</p>	<p>Unable to assess full impact at this stage.</p>	<p>Unable to assess full impact at this stage.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>capturing and building on good practice. ODPM is working with the Audit Commission, CFOA, IDeA, the College and other stakeholders to consider how best to carry out this work within the resources which we are jointly able to make available in the short to medium term. CFOA, LGA and ODPM are also joining forces to gather together a number of brief case studies from across the Service on initiatives aimed at increasing efficiency and they will disseminate these to all Fire and Rescue Authorities in a series of guidance notes and other means. These should help to further clarify where opportunities lie for Fire and Rescue Authorities to make efficiency savings.</p>				

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p><i>e-Government</i></p> <p>8.21 For local government, a corporate BVPI (BVPI 157) measures progress against the original e-Government targets. But simply making services available is not enough. Time and money will be wasted if they are not offered in ways that enhance quality, convenience and availability.</p> <p>8.22 Fire Service Circular 26-2005 acknowledged the unique situation of Fire and Rescue Authorities in regard to the e-Government agenda. It proposed that the expectations upon Fire and Rescue Authorities within Financial Year 2005/06 should be limited to ensuring that they are able to receive and act appropriately upon records received via the national fire portal. It remains the case that all Fire and Rescue Authorities should meet this requirement. although it should be noted that in the case of County Fire and Rescue Authorities, there may be further obligations arising from the governing Council's e-Services strategy.</p>	<p><i>e-Government</i></p> <p>8.23 Fire and Rescue Authorities are required to meet Government targets¹⁰ for e-delivery of services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 100% of relevant Government services should be capable of being delivered electronically by 2005; and ■ 100% of all newly created public records will be electronically stored and retrieved by 2004. <p>8.24 For local government, a corporate BVPI (BVPI 157) measures progress against the above targets. But simply making services available is not enough. Time and money will be wasted if they are not offered in ways that enhance quality, convenience and availability. ODPM's PSA of assisting local government to achieve 100% capability in electronic delivery of priority services by 2005, in ways that customers will use¹¹ is now supplemented elsewhere in local government by benchmarks for priority service delivery and the take-up of e-services.</p>	<p>Changes to existing paragraphs that address BVPI 157.</p>	<p>No additional impact upon WMRMB.</p>	<p>Implications for all F&RAs. Level of impact will vary from authority to authority.</p>
<p>E-Fire</p> <p>8.23 ODPM has been progressing the e-</p>		<p>New suite of 'E-fire' paragraphs replace previous</p>	<p>No additional impact upon WMRMB.</p>	<p>New 'Must do' paragraph for F&RAs to comply</p>

¹⁰ web-site of the Office of the e-Envoy: www.e-envoy.gov.uk

¹¹ *The National Strategy for Local e-Government* (ODPM 2002).

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>fire project, in partnership with both Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Authority and CFOA. This will produce an internet 'portal' for the Fire and Rescue Authorities in England. The portal will provide a range of information and guidance to householders, carers, premises operators and potential applicants for employment within the Service. The portal will provide an opportunity for these groups to make online requests for services to be delivered by their local Fire and Rescue Authority.</p> <p>8.24 Following the award of the prime contract to Parity Solutions in June 2005, the portal and services package is currently on track for its planned implementation in April 2006. From the date of implementation, users of the portal anywhere in England could use it to raise a request for service. Fire and Rescue Authorities must therefore ensure that they are able to receive and appropriately act upon such requests for services relating to their area.</p>		<p>paragraph 8.25.</p> <p>New 'Must do' included</p>		<p>with.</p>
<p>Information and Communications Technology Roadmap</p> <p>8.27 In February 2005, the ODPM commissioned a consultancy exercise, based on the findings of the e-fire technical survey of Fire and Rescue Authorities, their ICT infrastructures and systems portfolios. The purpose of the exercise was to assess commonalities and trends between Fire and</p>		<p>New paragraph. No cost or timescale implications indicated.</p>	<p>Unable to assess impact at this stage.</p>	<p>Unable to assess impact at this stage.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>Rescue Authorities' existing IT infrastructures, relating them to identifiable trends within the IT industry, as well as identifiable trends among broader user bases, such as other areas of the Public Sector.</p> <p>8.28 The product of the consultancy exercise was a potential ICT development 'roadmap', highlighting areas where benefits could be gained through convergence on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key standards for data; • the development and management of ICT infrastructures; • the development of corporate skills bases; and • the development of elements of shared infrastructure. <p>8.29 It is considered that the convergence illustrated within the Roadmap would provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a key 'underpinning element' supporting the FRS modernisation agenda; • significant facilitation to the sharing of information and the development of interoperability; and 				

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Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a focal point for co-ordination between various national projects such as FiReControl, e-fire, MLE etc, maximising the benefits to be obtained from work in each of these areas. <p>Subject to a full consultation exercise and modelling of expected benefits in relation to the cost of achieving them, the Roadmap is proposed as a basis for development of ICT systems across the fire community in the strategic timeframe.</p>				
Chapter 9: Research				
<p>9.2 ODPM and predecessor departments have for many years sponsored programmes of fire and rescue related research. ODPM currently runs 3 programmes of research which relate to Fire and Rescue Authorities, and which are co-ordinated between the sponsoring Directorates:</p> <p>Fire and Rescue Service Directorate Research The Fire and Rescue programme is a wide ranging programme of work including research on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk Management, in particular the continued development of the Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) methodology and the associated toolkit (see paragraph 1.5); Projects identified by the Building 		<p>Two additional new sponsoring directorates included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Thames Gateway Directorate (Sustainable Communities Group) Fire Research ➤ Civil Resilience Directorate (Regional Development Group) 	<p>Unable to assess impact at this stage.</p>	<p>Unable to assess impact at this stage.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>Disaster Assessment Group (BDAG) to ensure that fire and rescue service procedures and building design are compatible;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Fire Safety, including an evaluation of the Community Fire Safety Innovation Fund (see paragraph 1.11); • fire prevention, including community fire safety, arson reduction and working with children and young people (see paragraphs 1.10; 1.17); • research supporting human resources modernisation (e.g. Main Employment of Retained Duty Staff). <p>Thames Gateway Directorate (Sustainable Communities Group) Fire Research</p> <p>A research programme in support of Approved Document B (Fire) of the Building Regulations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Regulations, including studies to develop the science that underpins many aspects of fire safety in buildings; • further investigations into the effectiveness of residential sprinkler systems, specifically in relation to the use of concealed sprinkler heads. <p>Civil Resilience Directorate (Regional</p>		Research		

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<p>Development Group) Research</p> <p>A research programme dedicated to civil resilience issues, many of which are fire and rescue related.</p>				
<p>9.5 The Government believes that there is considerable scope to improve collaboration on fire and rescue research. It is working, in collaboration with the fire and rescue research community, to develop a comprehensive fire and rescue research strategy that will help underpin the modernisation agenda and the new challenges facing the Fire and Rescue Service. We envisage a strategy which embraces the whole cycle of risk identification, prevention, mitigation and emergency response, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further statistical and other analyses to better identify the categories of people and properties most at risk; • further work on prevention and community fire safety, in particular developing the evidence base on good practice and how preventative work can address fire risk in a cost effective manner; • research on innovative approaches to fire safety in building design and construction; and work to explore further the role of active and passive fire protection measures in buildings; 	<p>9.5 The Government believes that there is considerable scope to improve collaboration on fire and rescue research. It is working, in collaboration with the fire and rescue research community, to develop a comprehensive fire and rescue research strategy that will help underpin the modernisation agenda and the new challenges facing the Service. We envisage a strategy which embraces the whole cycle of risk identification, prevention, mitigation and emergency response, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ further statistical and other analyses better to identify the categories of people and properties most at risk; ■ further work on prevention and community fire safety, in particular developing the evidence base on good practice and how preventative work can address fire risk cost effectively; ■ research on innovative approaches to fire safety in building design and construction; and work to explore further the role of active and passive fire protection measures in buildings; 	<p>New draft framework has withdrawn research in the following area:</p> <p>➤ <i>research into search, rescue, and decontamination procedures for the civil population, including the deployment of specialist equipment and procedures for use by the Fire and Rescue Service to improve civil resilience;</i></p>	<p>Unable to assess where WMRMB will now receive guidance in respect of deleted area of research.</p>	<p>Unable to assess where F&RAs will now receive guidance in respect of deleted area of research.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research on enhancing firefighting and other emergency responses, including the design and use of fire and rescue service personal protective and other equipment, vehicles, and premises; • research on the development of Fire and Rescue Service staff required for the delivery of the modernisation agenda; and • support for underpinning fire science in academia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ research on enhancing firefighting and other emergency responses, including the design and use of Fire and Rescue Service personal protective and other equipment, vehicles, and premises; ■ research into search, rescue, and decontamination procedures for the civil population, including the deployment of specialist equipment and procedures for use by the Fire and Rescue Service to improve civil resilience; ■ research on the development of Fire and Rescue Service staff required for the delivery of the modernisation agenda; and ■ support for underpinning fire science in academia. 			
<p>9.9 Fire and Rescue Authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draw on the relevant research in exercising their functions, for example in formulating their Integrated Risk Management Plans, including strategies to efficiently and effectively prevent fires, mitigate their effects on people and buildings and deal effectively with incidents when they occur; and • avoid duplication by drawing on others' work and sharing their own findings and plans, including through the 	<p>9.11 Fire and Rescue Authorities Should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ draw on the relevant research in exercising their functions, for example in formulating their strategies to prevent fires; and ■ avoid duplication by drawing on others' work and sharing their own findings and plans, including through the Practitioners' Forum and the Academy. 	<p>Minor amendments to paragraph.</p>	<p>No additional impact upon WMRMB.</p>	<p>No significant changes to existing 'Should do' task.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
Practitioners' Forum and the Academy.				
<p>9.13 Fire and Rescue Authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue the timely completion of statistical returns issued by ODPM; • assist ODPM in establishing a fully electronic data collection system by contributing their knowledge of fire and rescue service procedures and incident recording to the e-data collection project; • explore how they might provide timely information on fires and incidents of special interest (FOSIs), in particular, details of fire related fatalities. 	<p>9.15 Fire and Rescue Authorities Should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ continue the timely completion of statistical returns issued by ODPM; and ■ assist ODPM in establishing a fully electronic data collection system by contributing their knowledge of Fire and Rescue Service procedures and incident recording to the e-data collection project. 	<p>Amendments to existing paragraph, key addition – F&RAs should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ explore how they might provide timely information on fires and incidents of special interest (FOSIs), in particular, details of fire related fatalities. 	<p>No additional impact upon WMRMB.</p>	<p>New 'Should do' activity included in paragraph for F&RAs to comply with.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
Annex A – Protocol on Central Government Engagement in Poorly Performing Local Authorities				
<p><i>Intervention powers</i> This note sets out the legislative powers that exist to enforce a local authority to take action to address poor performance.</p> <p>The powers are: ...</p> <p>Fire - Sections 2, 6, 12, 19, 21, 24, and 33 of the Fire Services Act 1947</p>	<p><i>Intervention powers</i> This note sets out the legislative powers that exist to enforce a local authority to take action to address poor performance.</p> <p>The powers are: ...</p> <p>Fire - Sections 2, 6, 12, 19, 21, 24, and 33 of the Fire Services Act 1947</p>	<p>The draft 2006-08 Framework is incorrect and has not been amended to reflect the introduction of the Fire Services Act 2004</p>	<p>Paragraph incorrect – no impact.</p>	<p>Paragraph incorrect – no impact.</p>
Annex B – Fire and Rescue Service Targets and ODPM Strategic Priorities				
<p>No Changes</p>		<p>No Changes</p>		

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			
Annex C MOU: ODPM-AC				
<p><i>Memorandum of Understanding</i></p> <p>1. This document is a memorandum of understanding (MOU). It sets out certain standing arrangements to be followed by the Audit Commission, the Fire & Rescue Service Improvement Team (FRSIT) and HM Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI). It covers all aspects of performance management and assessment in the Fire & Rescue Service in England for which the signatory parties are responsible. Separate arrangements will be made for the rest of the UK.</p> <p>2. It came into force on 10 May 2004 and will apply until 31 December 2005. It may be revised or revoked before that date.</p>	<p><i>Memorandum of Understanding</i></p> <p>1. This document is a memorandum of understanding (MOU). It sets out certain standing arrangements to be followed by the Audit Commission, the Fire & Rescue Service Improvement Team (FRSIT) and HM Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI). It covers all aspects of performance management and assessment in the Fire & Rescue Service in England for which the signatory parties are responsible. Separate arrangements will be made for the rest of the UK.</p> <p>2. It came into force on 10 May 2004 and will apply until 31 December 2005. It may be revised or revoked before that date.</p>	<p>The MOU is now expired but is still included in the 2006-08 framework?</p>	<p>Unable to fully assess impact as MOU has technically expired.</p>	<p>Unable to fully assess impact as MOU has technically expired.</p>
Annex D – Operational and Technical Guidance				
<p>No changes</p>		<p>No changes</p>		
Annex E – Draft Fire and Rescue Service Core Values				
<p>No changes</p>		<p>Core Values are still listed as draft with no reference to earlier consultation exercise and outcome.</p>	<p>Unable to fully assess as finalised Core Values have not been published.</p>	<p>Unable to fully assess as finalised Core Values have not been published.</p>

Draft National Framework 2006-08	Existing National Framework 2005/06	Key Changes	Implications for: WMRMB	Implications for: F&RAs
Draft Paragraph	Existing Paragraph			

Annex F – Best Value Performance Indicators				
No Changes		BVPs listed refer to 2005/06. These should be amended to reflect those indicators applicable during 2006-08?	Unable to assess impact as draft Framework lists 2005/06 BVPs.	Unable to assess impact as draft Framework lists 2005/06 BVPs.
Annex G – List of Acronyms				
No Changes		No Changes		

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority
Strategy and Resources Committee
19 January 2006

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
CONSULTATION EXERCISE:
DRAFT NATIONAL FRAMEWORK 2006-08**

**Appendix B – Draft Response to
Consultation Exercise**

<p>Question:</p> <p>Chapter:</p>	<p>Is the National Framework clear about the Government's objectives and priorities, what Fire and Rescue Authorities are expected to deliver, and the support the Government will provide? If not, how could it be improved?</p>	<p>Do you agree with the policies set out in each chapter? If not, why not and what alternative policy would you wish to see instead?</p>	<p>Do you have any comments on the implementation of the policies set out that are of relevance to the National Framework?</p>
<p>Chapter 1 - Fire prevention and risk management</p>	<p>Government's objectives and priorities are not explicit within Chapter 1. The requirements of Chapter 1 should be linked more constructively to the targets and strategic priorities set out within Annex B of the draft Framework document.</p> <p>It is difficult for RMBs and/or F&RAs to demonstrate 'measurable' progress against the Framework's <i>Should/Must</i> requirements set out in paragraphs – 1.12, 1.20, 1.22, 1.25, 1.35 and 1.38 as government's objectives are not SMART*.</p> <p>If paragraph 3.11 is correct, then It is recommended that Paragraph 1.39 is rephrased as a 'Must' activity for F&RAs.</p>	<p>Yes, the stated policies appear to be relevant and acceptable.</p>	<p>Government's objectives set out within Chapter 1 should be more clearly linked to the Framework's stated targets and priorities (Annex B) and articulated more accurately.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.5 of the Draft Framework states - <i>Regional Management Boards should be able to demonstrate continuing and measurable progress towards meeting the requirements in each of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of this document.</i></p> <p>It is difficult, if not impossible, for F&RAs and RMBs to demonstrate <i>continuing and measurable progress</i> towards meeting the requirements of Chapter 1 in support of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 without SMART objectives and targets to work towards.</p> <p>The requirements of Chapter 1 should be clearly incorporated within the FRSD Milestone Map.</p>

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<p>Chapter 2 - Working together</p>	<p>Government's objectives and priorities are not explicit within Chapter 2. The requirements of Chapter 2 should be linked more constructively to the targets and strategic priorities set out within Annex B of the draft Framework document.</p> <p>It is difficult for RMBs and/or F&RAs to demonstrate 'measurable' progress against the Framework's <i>Should/Must</i> requirements set out in paragraphs – 2.7, 2.8 and 2.20 as some of government's objectives are not SMART*.</p>	<p>Yes, the stated policies appear to be relevant and acceptable. However, does supporting paragraph 2.20 automatically satisfy the requirements of Best Value?</p>	<p>Government's objectives set out within Chapter 2 should be more clearly linked to the Framework's stated targets and priorities (Annex B) and articulated more accurately.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.5 of the Draft Framework states - <i>Regional Management Boards should be able to demonstrate continuing and measurable progress towards meeting the requirements in each of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of this document.</i></p> <p>It is difficult, if not impossible, for F&RAs and RMBs to demonstrate <i>continuing and measurable progress</i> towards meeting the requirements of Chapter 2 without SMART objectives and targets to work towards. For example, when should the key areas set out within paragraph 2.7 be completed?</p> <p>Why has paragraph 2.18 of the 2005/06 National Framework not been carried over to the draft 2006-08 National Framework?</p> <p>The requirements of Chapter 2 should be clearly incorporated within the FRSD Milestone Map.</p>
<p>Chapter 3 - Effective response</p>	<p>Government's objectives and priorities are not explicit within Chapter 3. The requirements of Chapter 3 should be linked more constructively to</p>	<p>Yes, the stated policies appear to be relevant and acceptable.</p>	<p>Government's objectives set out within Chapter 3 should be more clearly linked to the Framework's stated targets and priorities (Annex B) and articulated more accurately.</p>

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	<p>the targets and strategic priorities set out within Annex B of the draft Framework document.</p> <p>It is difficult for RMBs and/or F&RAs to demonstrate 'measurable' progress against the Framework's <i>Should/Must</i> requirements set out in paragraphs – 3.33, 3.10, 3.12, 3.15, 3.19 and 3.25 as government's objectives are not SMART*.</p> <p>What is an 'adequate resource' in respect of paragraph 3.21?</p> <p>Paragraph 3.30 refers to operational self-assurance. It is recommended that operational self-assurance is designated as a 'Must do' objective.</p>		<p>Paragraph 2.5 of the Draft Framework states - <i>Regional Management Boards should be able to demonstrate continuing and measurable progress towards meeting the requirements in each of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of this document.</i></p> <p>It is difficult, if not impossible, for F&RAs and RMBs to demonstrate <i>continuing and measurable progress</i> towards meeting the requirements of Chapter 3 in support of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 without SMART objectives and targets to work towards. For example, when should paragraph 3.25 be completed, and what is deemed to be an adequate resource (see paragraph 3.21) to support this objective.</p> <p>Should paragraph 3.12 be the subject of a Best Value review?</p> <p>The requirements of Chapter 3 should be clearly incorporated within the FRSD Milestone Map.</p>
<p>Chapter 4 - Resilience and New Dimension</p>	<p>Government's objectives and priorities are not explicit within Chapter 4. The requirements of Chapter 4 should be linked more constructively to the targets and strategic priorities set out within Annex B of the draft Framework document.</p>	<p>Yes, the stated policies appear to be relevant and acceptable.</p>	<p>Government's objectives set out within Chapter 4 should be more clearly linked to the Framework's stated targets and priorities (Annex B) and articulated more accurately.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.5 of the Draft Framework states -</p>

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	<p>It is difficult for RMBs and/or F&RAs to demonstrate 'measurable' progress against the Framework's requirements set out in paragraph 4.9 as government's objectives are not SMART*.</p> <p>Paragraphs 4.30 and 4.31 refer to the creation of <i>Firelink Regional Roll-out Boards</i>. Would it be more efficient and effective to include a role for RMBs within these Boards? Particularly as responsibility for FiReControl within regions resides with RMBs.</p>		<p><i>Regional Management Boards should be able to demonstrate continuing and measurable progress towards meeting the requirements in each of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of this document.</i></p> <p>It is difficult, if not impossible, for F&RAs and RMBs to demonstrate <i>continuing and measurable progress</i> towards meeting the requirements of Chapter 4 in support of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 without SMART objectives and targets to work towards. For example, when should paragraph 4.9 be completed?</p> <p>The requirements of Chapter 4 should be clearly incorporated within the FRSD Milestone Map.</p>
<p>Chapter 5 - Fire and rescue staff</p>	<p>Government's objectives and priorities are not explicit within Chapter 5. The requirements of Chapter 5 should be linked more constructively to the targets and strategic priorities set out within Annex B of the draft Framework document.</p> <p>It is difficult for RMBs and/or F&RAs to demonstrate 'measurable' progress against the Framework's <i>Should/Must</i> requirements set out in paragraphs – 5.2, 5.4, 5.8, 5.12, 5.17, 5.19, 5.24, and 5.32 as government's objectives are not SMART*.</p>	<p>Yes, the stated policies appear to be relevant and acceptable.</p>	<p>Government's objectives set out within Chapter 5 should be more clearly linked to the Framework's stated targets and priorities (Annex B) and articulated more accurately.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.5 of the Draft Framework states - <i>Regional Management Boards should be able to demonstrate continuing and measurable progress towards meeting the requirements in each of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of this document.</i></p> <p>It is difficult, if not impossible, for F&RAs and RMBs to demonstrate <i>continuing and measurable</i></p>

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			<p><i>progress</i> towards meeting the requirements of Chapter 5 in support of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 without SMART objectives and targets to work towards. For example, when should paragraph 5.32 be completed, and what is there a cashable efficiency saving target to be achieved?</p> <p>Should paragraphs 5.12 and 5.32 be the subject of a Best Value reviews?</p> <p>Why has paragraph 5.20 of the 2005/06 National Framework not been carried over to the draft 2006-08 National Framework?</p> <p>The requirements of Chapter 5 should be clearly incorporated within the FRSD Milestone Map.</p>
<p>Chapter 6 - Workforce development</p>	<p>Government's objectives and priorities are not explicit within Chapter 6. The requirements of Chapter 6 should be linked more constructively to the targets and strategic priorities set out within Annex B of the draft Framework document.</p> <p>It is difficult for RMBs and/or F&RAs to demonstrate 'measurable' progress against the Framework's <i>Should/Must</i> requirements set out in paragraphs – 6.6 and 6.11 as government's objectives are not SMART*.</p>	<p>Yes, the stated policies appear to be relevant and acceptable.</p>	<p>Government's objectives set out within Chapter 6 should be more clearly linked to the Framework's stated targets and priorities (Annex B) and articulated more accurately.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.5 of the Draft Framework states - <i>Regional Management Boards should be able to demonstrate continuing and measurable progress towards meeting the requirements in each of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of this document.</i></p> <p>It is difficult, if not impossible, for F&RAs and</p>

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			<p>RMBs to demonstrate <i>continuing and measurable progress</i> towards meeting the requirements of Chapter 6 in support of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 without SMART objectives and targets to work towards. For example, when should paragraph 6.6. be completed?</p> <p>Should paragraphs 6.11 be the subject of a Best Value review?</p> <p>Why has paragraph 6.18 of the 2005/06 National Framework not been carried over to the draft 2006-08 National Framework?</p> <p>The requirements of Chapter 6 should be clearly incorporated within the FRSD Milestone Map.</p>
<p>Chapter 7 - Finance</p>	<p>Government's objectives and priorities are not explicit within Chapter 7. The requirements of Chapter 7 should be linked more constructively to the targets and strategic priorities set out within Annex B of the draft Framework document.</p> <p>It is difficult for RMBs and/or F&RAs to demonstrate 'measurable' progress against the Framework's <i>Should</i> requirements set out in paragraphs – 7.2, 7.5 and 7.26 as government's objectives are not SMART*.</p>	<p>Yes, the stated policies appear to be relevant and acceptable.</p>	<p>Government's objectives set out within Chapter 7 should be more clearly linked to the Framework's stated targets and priorities (Annex B) and articulated more accurately.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.5 of the Draft Framework states - <i>Regional Management Boards should be able to demonstrate continuing and measurable progress towards meeting the requirements in each of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of this document.</i></p> <p>It is difficult, if not impossible, for F&RAs and RMBs to demonstrate <i>continuing and measurable</i></p>

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			<p><i>progress</i> towards meeting the requirements of Chapter 7 in support of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 without SMART objectives and targets to work towards. Paragraph 7.4 is partially SMART, and illustrates an approach that would be more meaningful elsewhere within the document.</p> <p>More detailed guidance is required in respect of paragraph 7.29, as the statement does not appear to reflect experiences to date.</p> <p>The requirements of Chapter 7 should be clearly incorporated within the FRSD Milestone Map.</p>
Chapter 8 - Performance management	<p>Government's objectives and priorities are not explicit within Chapter 8. The requirements of Chapter 8 should be linked more constructively to the targets and strategic priorities set out within Annex B of the draft Framework document.</p> <p>It is difficult for RMBs and/or F&RAs to demonstrate 'measurable' progress against the Framework's paragraph 8.24 as government's objectives are not SMART*.</p>	<p>Yes, the stated policies appear to be relevant and acceptable.</p>	<p>Government's objectives set out within Chapter 8 should be more clearly linked to the Framework's stated targets and priorities (Annex B) and articulated more accurately.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.5 of the Draft Framework states - <i>Regional Management Boards should be able to demonstrate continuing and measurable progress towards meeting the requirements in each of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of this document.</i></p> <p>It is difficult, if not impossible, for F&RAs and RMBs to demonstrate <i>continuing and measurable progress</i> towards meeting the requirements of Chapter 8 in support of the key areas listed at</p>

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			<p>paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 without SMART objectives and targets to work towards.</p> <p>It is disappointing to note that CPA as experienced in 2005 may not be repeated in a similar fashion during 2006/07. The CPA process has provided a baseline and enabled F&RAs to develop improvement plans that would result in progression towards a higher score at subsequent inspections. Only through repetition of the original process will F&RAs be able to accurately demonstrate improvement.</p> <p>The requirements of Chapter 8 should be clearly incorporated within the FRSD Milestone Map.</p>
Chapter 9 - Research	<p>Government's objectives and priorities are not explicit within Chapter 9. The requirements of Chapter 9 should be linked more constructively to the targets and strategic priorities set out within Annex B of the draft Framework document.</p> <p>It is difficult for RMBs and/or F&RAs to demonstrate 'measurable' progress against the Framework's <i>Should</i> requirements set out in paragraphs – 9.9 and 9.13 as government's objectives are not SMART*.</p>	<p>Yes, the stated policies appear to be relevant and acceptable.</p>	<p>Government's objectives set out within Chapter 9 should be more clearly linked to the Framework's stated targets and priorities (Annex B) and articulated more accurately.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.5 of the Draft Framework states - <i>Regional Management Boards should be able to demonstrate continuing and measurable progress towards meeting the requirements in each of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of this document.</i></p> <p>It is difficult, if not impossible, for F&RAs and RMBs to demonstrate <i>continuing and measurable progress</i> towards meeting the requirements of</p>

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			<p>Chapter 9 in support of the key areas listed at paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 without SMART objectives and targets to work towards. For example, when should paragraph 9.13 be completed?</p> <p>Why has paragraph 9.5 of the 2005/06 National Framework been amended to delete the following objective from the draft 2006-08 National Framework?</p> <p>➤ <i>research into search, rescue, and decontamination procedures for the civil population, including the deployment of specialist equipment and procedures for use by the Fire and Rescue Service to improve civil resilience;</i></p> <p>The requirements of Chapter 9 should be clearly incorporated within the FRSD Milestone Map.</p>
<p>Annex A – Protocol on Central Government Engagement in Poorly Performing Local Authorities</p>			<p><i>Annex A states:</i> Intervention powers <i>This note sets out the legislative powers that exist to enforce a local authority to take action to address poor performance.</i></p> <p><i>The powers are: ...</i></p> <p><i>Fire - Sections 2, 6, 12, 19, 21, 24, and 33 of the Fire Services Act 1947</i></p> <p>The draft 2006-08 Framework is incorrect and has not been amended to reflect the</p>

			introduction of the Fire Services Act 2004
Annex C MOU: ODPM-AC			<p>Annex C states: <i>Memorandum of Understanding</i></p> <p>1. <i>This document is a memorandum of understanding (MOU). It sets out certain standing arrangements to be followed by the Audit Commission, the Fire & Rescue Service Improvement Team (FRSIT) and HM Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI). It covers all aspects of performance management and assessment in the Fire & Rescue Service in England for which the signatory parties are responsible. Separate arrangements will be made for the rest of the UK.</i></p> <p>2. <i>It came into force on 10 May 2004 and will apply until 31 December 2005. It may be revised or revoked before that date.</i></p> <p>The MOU is now expired but is still included in the 2006-08 framework?</p>
Annex E – Draft Fire and Rescue Service Core Values			<p>Annex E states the Core Values that are still listed as <i>draft</i> with no reference to the earlier consultation exercise and outcome.</p> <p>Will they be issued as final Core Values?</p>
Annex F – Best Value Performance Indicators			<p>Annex F lists BVPIs for 2005/06.</p> <p>These should be amended to reflect those indicators applicable during 2006-08.</p>