

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

22 JANUARY 2004

NOTICE OF MOTION

1. That the Council notes that:

(a) the Government White paper "Our Fire & Rescue Service" requires fire authorities, including East Sussex Fire Authority to which the Council appoints 6 members, to establish before 1 April 2004 regional management boards to take responsibility for delivering 6 strategic functions, ie

(1) ensuring resilience to emergencies, especially potential chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attack,

(2) specialist or common services, where appropriate, such as fire investigation,

(3) establishing regional control rooms,

(4) introducing regional level procurement or procurement to national standards,

(5) developing regional training strategies and delivery, and

(6) introducing regional personnel management and human resources management functions,

(b) fire authorities are being guided to do this by setting up joint committees under the Local Government Act 1972 and delegating their powers to them.

2. That the Council informs the ODPM that in the Council's view:

(a) the proposals are proceeding with unnecessary haste as it is not clear what the 6 strategic functions cover and there has been no adequate business case put forward to show that these services can necessarily be delivered more effectively, efficiently and economically by Regional Management Boards,

(b) that Fire Authorities are capable of working together in partnership when there is a case for doing so without the need for Regional Management Boards,

(c) that local people know the local circumstances and should remain responsible for local services, and

(d) that, although not necessarily against a fire and rescue service which serves East Sussex, West Sussex and the City, the Council is firmly opposed to a wider scale regionalisation, particularly the proposals for a regional control centre which will direct fire engines of 9 fire authorities in a huge area stretching from Oxfordshire to the Isle of Wight to Kent with a population of about 8 million people.

Proposer: Councillor Geoffrey Theobald
Kemble

Seconder: Councillor Ted

Signed by:

	Councillor Denise Cobb	Councillor Jan Young
	Councillor David Smith	Councillor Averil Older
	Councillor Mary Mears	Councillor Peter Willows
	Councillor Ken Norman	Councillor Brian Pidgeon
Brown	Councillor Geoff Wells	Councillor Vanessa
Dunn	Councillor Carol Theobald	Councillor Peltzer
Simson	Councillor Pat Drake	Councillor Anne Giebeler
		Councillor Dee