

Report No: RMB/05/10
Meeting Date: 7 April 2010
Agenda Item No: 15

REPORT TO THE SOUTH EAST FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES' REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

IESE CONFERENCE UPDATE 7 APRIL 2010

KEY ISSUE/DECISION

The Regional Management Board is asked to note that the Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service was voted fire service of the year at the Improvement & Efficiency South East awards ceremony held on 4 March 2010.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following a request for nominations, the Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service was named Fire & Rescue Service of the year. This was in recognition of the improvements they have made as an organisation since their Comprehensive Performance Assessment in 2005.

CONSULTATION

Consultation has taken place with the constituent Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) in the South East Region to develop the report and the appendices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note that the Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service was awarded Fire Service of the Year at the Improvement & Efficiency South East Awards.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

INTRODUCTION

1. Improvement & Efficiency South East held its annual conference on 4 March 2010. The event focused on the key challenges ahead for local government and not surprisingly spent time considering the economic outlook for local government. After the conference, IESE held its inaugural awards ceremony, which gave 11 awards to local authorities and partnerships from across the south east.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

Presentations

2. Presentations were given by
 - William Jordan, Chief Sustainability & Operating Officer from the Office of Government Commerce on Beating the Recession; The role of collaborative procurement
 - Ben Lucas, Director, 2020 Public Services Trust
 - Peter Gilroy, Chief Executive, Kent County Council on What's the future? Digital Britain and the future of Local Government
3. Round table discussions were led by colleagues from Improvement & Efficiency South East and local authorities in the region, on issues like shared services, outsourcing and shared management arrangements. Overall there were some interesting messages around the need for transformation in public services to meet rising public demands for personalisation, at a time when finance will become more and more of an issue.

Awards Ceremony

4. Nominations were sought in a variety of categories representing all local government activity across the south east. The full list of winners is attached at **Appendix 1**. The Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service won Fire Service of the Year, and a note to this effect is attached at **Appendix 2**.

IMPLICATIONS

5. The economic climate will continue to be difficult for the foreseeable future, and authorities will be expected to do more with less. In light of this, working together will become even more important, as will work to understand the nature of risk in local areas, and how this can be mitigated through risk reduction activity. This is work that the South East Fire Improvement Partnership has led on, and will be continued in the new business plan, elsewhere on this agenda.

CONCLUSION

6. Members are asked to note that the Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service was awarded Fire Service of the Year at the Improvement & Efficiency South East Awards.