

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The Fire Service at any time has a large number of different projects underway – many with significant Union involvement or participation. These range from such things as Time Critical Extractions to Fire Radio Network to Workplace Carcinogen Exposures.

It is self-evident that in the past, very many projects have not been well done. An example of this is the roll-out of the new B.A.

There are usually any number of reasons why projects with very laudable aims and objects fail dismally on implementation. These failures are immensely frustrating, are not efficient, and are disruptive.

Fire Service management seems to have accepted this, and are attempting to plan more strategically in the future.

There is now a Strategic Programme Office and a Programme Governance Committee to provide oversight/coordination of planned projects. The end point of the new process is that any project will have to have a determined Project Plan which details exactly what the project will deliver, how the project will be approached and provide detail on things like schedule/timelines etc.

Given obvious problems in the past with uncoordinated, incoherent projects and ineffectual roll-outs, the Union can only hope that this new process will achieve its desired outcomes and improve outcomes.

The danger is that approvals and projects themselves are delayed and the new process becomes a bureaucratic nightmare. There is little doubt that projects will be better planned, but maybe will proceed at a slower pace.