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Your Ref:
Our Ref: **NT/JC**
Please Ask For: **Neil Timms**
Direct Line/Ext: **294**
Date: **11 November 2008**

Dear Sir

Revenue Budget and Council Tax Consultation 2009/10

The attached report was considered by the Finance and Resources Committee of Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority at its meeting on 24 October 2008 and I would be grateful if you could find the time to read it through and consider letting me have your views on the questions set out below.

Rather than consulting directly on the budget proposals it was considered more useful to ask people, groups and organisations their opinions on our range of services and priorities for 2009/10. These are, after all, the issues which drive the budget.

I have deliberately avoided quoting activity based figures such as cost per Home Safety Check and figures for specific activities such as Riskwatch or Bendigo as to do so would require lots more detail in explaining what these initiatives are. The consultation is therefore framed around the broad services areas of the Authority.

Specifically I would like your views on the following questions:

Do you think that the split of expenditure between the various activities of the service appears reasonable bearing in mind that the cost of key infrastructure is included in the Response costs?

Do you think that the continued policy of increasing resources available to Community Safety and the pro-active use of operational crews in this role is appropriate?

Are you aware from your own experience of any areas of our community where our Community Safety Department could be more active?

Do you think that the Authority's proposal to keep the budget increase to less than inflation is a good one or do you think that this might cause difficulties in the future?

Paragraphs 2.39 to 2.52 set out the Authority's priorities in allocating additional resources during 2009/10 and the reasons behind this. Having read some of the detail behind these priorities do you think that they should be the areas of focus for 2009/10 or are there others?

Do you think that the policy of not using balances and reserves to support the Council Tax but using them instead to avoid year on year fluctuations is appropriate?

I would be most grateful if you could let me have your views on the questions posed above either by email to neil.timms@notts-fire.gov.uk or to the address above by the 21 November 2008.

I appreciate that there are many more questions that may arise from this consultation and would be happy to meet with you to discuss any aspect of our Service or this consultation in more detail. To arrange a meeting please contact Jo Cooper on (0115) 967 5828 or at jo.cooper@notts-fire.gov.uk

Thank you for your help.

Yours faithfully

Neil Timms
Head of Finance and Resources

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