



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Report of the Chair of the
Finance & Resources Committee

Agenda No:

Date: 19 February 2010

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members on the business and actions of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting of Friday 08 January 2010.

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1. BACKGROUND

As part of the revised Governance arrangements the Authority has delegated key responsibilities for Finance and Resources to the Finance and Resources Committee. As part of those delegated responsibilities, the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee and the Management lead report to the Authority on its business and actions as agreed at Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on 1 June 2007.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee held on Friday 08 January 2010 are attached to this report at Appendix A. The following summarises the main points of the papers discussed at the meeting.
- 2.2 The Committee were firstly in receipt of a report regarding the proposed capital and revenue budgets 2010/11 to 2012/13. A number of questions were posed, both by Members of the Committee and by the Fire Brigades Union representatives present. Following discussion it was resolved unanimously that the proposed capital budgets for the period 2010/11 to 2012/13 be approved and the Fire Authority be recommended to approve a 3% increase in Council Tax for 2010/11.
- 2.3 Two monitoring reports were also subject to the Committee's consideration at this meeting. They were in relation to:
 - 2.3.1 Capital Monitoring Report to 30 November 2009 – updating on capital programme progress in the year 2009/10 to the end of November 2009 and analysing significant variances against the original programme. The variances against the capital programme 2009/10 were noted and it was further resolved that the use of revenue contributions to finance additional redecoration and re-organisation of the IT and Communications Department at Headquarters and work to the reception areas at Mansfield Fire Station be approved.
 - 2.3.2 Revenue Monitoring Report to 30 November 2009 – updating on financial performance of the Service in the year 2009/10 to the end of November 2009, and analysing significant variances against the original budget. It was resolved that the variances against the original budget 2009/10 be noted; that the proposal to 'ring fence' future Prince's Trust surpluses for the Prince's Trust project be approved; and that the creation of earmarked reserves and one off expenditure as set out in the report be approved.
- 2.4 Two further reports were presented to the Committee, both of which were noted as recommended in the reports. These were in relation to:
 - 2.4.1 Efficiency Savings – the report informed Members of progress against the annual efficiency savings targets.

2.4.2 Prudential Code Monitoring Report to 30 November 2009 – updating Members on the performance up to 30 November 2009 in relation to the prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management.

- 2.5 The Committee also gave consideration to a report which outlined to Members the value, benefits and achievements of the On Fire Fund to date and the proposals that the Committee approve the allocation of fund necessary for the Community Safety Committee to be able to continue to operate it. It was resolved that the achievements to date be noted and that £120,000 be allocated to the Fund to enable the Community Safety Committee to be able to continue to operate it, it being noted that this brought the Fund back up to £200,000, the cost to be met from underspends in 2009/10.
- 2.6 The final report before the Committee informed Members of the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards and of the impacts this is likely to have on the Authority. The Committee noted the report and asked that Members be kept informed of progress.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All of the reports considered by Finance and Resources Committee on 08 January 2010 were finance related. However, there were no significant financial implications arising from those reports.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

All human resources and learning and development implications were considered as part of the original reports submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial equality impact assessment has identified no specific aspects relating to a disproportionate effect in respect of the key equality strands.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional risk management issues arising from this report other than those specifically reported to the Committee as part of the reports under consideration.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report and the business undertaken by the Finance and Resources Committee.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

Councillor Malcolm Wood
CHAIR OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM
FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **8 JANUARY 2010** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge from 2.00 pm to 3.10 pm.

Membership

Councillor M Wood (Chair)
Councillor A Foster
Councillor P Griggs
Councillor T Pettengell
Councillor K Rostance

Members absent are marked ^

Present as an observer – Councillor Cooper.

24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

25 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 9 October 2009, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

26 PROPOSED CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS 2010/11 TO 2012/13

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the development of the revenue and capital budgets.

Councillors asked a number of questions and the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) representatives present asked the following questions which were responded to by the Chair:

Operational pay. 'Can management confirm that the Conversion of Post policy has been followed under the Uniformed Roles section? This role was a fully operational post and no consultation has taken place with the FBU as is required under the above policy.'

Response from Chair. 'In accordance with Brigade Policy 1023 any conversion of post is subject to consultation with the representative bodies. This policy will be followed in this case.'

Retained review. 'Can management explain how there is a saving of £54,455 resulting from the Retained review and does this saving take account of the cost of implementing the Retained review?'

Response from Chair. 'This is actually set out on page 18 of the report (appendix A). The underlying principle here is that there is a significant amount of money being invested in the retained service which is being paid for in part by cutting back on the Community Safety budget for Retained and transferring the workload to non uniformed personnel who will carry out home safety checks etc in Retained areas.'

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the proposed capital budgets for the period 2010/11 to 2012/13 be approved and the Fire Authority be recommended to approve a 3% increase in Council Tax for 2010/11.

27 CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 30 NOVEMBER 2009

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing variances against the original 2009/10 budget. It was reported that most of the underspend was committed and there was no reason for concern. Carlton Fire Station was on target, with the contractors in on 25 January, and the tender for the work had come in within budget. The projected underspend at the end of the year was £591,000 and, therefore, a performance of 90% on the capital budget was very satisfactory. With regard to the sale of Dunkirk Fire Station the case would be heard in the Royal Courts of Justice in November 2010.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the variances against the original 2009/10 budget be noted;**
- (2) that the use of revenue contributions to finance additional redecoration and reorganisation of the IT and Communication Department at Headquarters (£139,000) and work to the reception area at Mansfield Fire Station (£25,000) be approved.**

28 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT TO 30 NOVEMBER 2009

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing variances against the 2009/10 budget.

The Fire Brigade Union representatives asked 'if management could confirm the final cost to Nottinghamshire taxpayers' used in pursuing ill fated legal action against the FBU over Co-Responding?'

The Chair replied 'that the net cost to Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Service of the Co-Responding legal action was £51,944.06. This was after contributions had been made by most other Fire Authorities in the UK.'

RESOLVED

- (1) that the variances against the original 2009/10 budget be noted;**
- (1) that the proposal to 'ring fence' future Prince's Trust surpluses for the Prince's Trust project be approved;**
- (2) that the creation of earmarked reserves and one off expenditure, as set out in paragraphs 2.21 and 2.22 of the report, be approved.**

29 EFFICIENCY SAVINGS

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that the progress against annual efficiency savings targets be noted.

30 PRUDENTIAL CODE MONITORING REPORT TO 30 NOVEMBER 2009

RESOLVED that the report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, relating to the prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management, be noted.

31 CONTINUATION OF THE 'ON FIRE FUND'

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the value, benefits and achievements to date of the 'On Fire Fund' and the details of projects that were successful from November 2007 to March 2009, as set out in appendix A, be noted;**
- (2) that £120,000 be allocated to the Fund to enable the Community Safety Committee to be able to continue to operate this, it being noted that this brought the Fund back up to £200,000, with the cost being met from underspends in 2009/10.**

32 INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated. It was reported that external help would be required on the introduction of the Standards and a sum of £33,000 was earmarked for this purpose. The Treasury was being lobbied via CIPFA as there could be a rise of 2-3% in overall costs in order to make the necessary accounting changes.

RESOLVED that the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards and the implications for this Authority be noted and this Committee be kept informed of progress.

FOR NOTE