



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES

of meeting of the Authority held on **19 FEBRUARY 2010** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Nottingham from 10.30 am to 11.50 am.

Membership

	Councillor D Pulk	(Chair)
	Councillor P Griggs	(Vice-Chair)
^	Councillor V Bobo	
	Councillor B Cooper	
	Councillor B Cross	
	Councillor S Fielding	
	Councillor A Foster	
	Councillor B Grocock	
	Councillor J Hemsall	
	Councillor H James	
^	Councillor K Longdon	
	Councillor T Pettengell	
	Councillor K Rigby	
	Councillor K Rostance	
	Councillor T Spencer	
	Councillor L Sykes	
	Councillor G Wheeler	
	Councillor M Wood	

Members absent are marked ^

45 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Longdon.

46 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests were made.

47 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 18 December 2009, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

48 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bombeiros Voluntarios Albufeira

The Chair reported the receipt of a letter from Bombeiros Voluntarios Albufeira thanking the Fire Authority for the old kit which they had been given to help them through their financial difficulties.

Internet access

Councillors would receive an e-mail shortly explaining how to use the new intranet site. If further guidance was required they should contact the Chief Fire Officer's Personal Assistant.

Mark Millington

Nottinghamshire Firefighter Mark Millington had recently received the President's Volunteer Service Award for his work following 9/11 in distributing uniforms and equipment across the world. The award was to honour volunteers who had helped others and Mr Millington was one of only a handful of people outside America who had been honoured.

RESOLVED that Mark Millington be congratulated on the award for his post 9/11 work.

49 WORKING BALANCES

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing councillors of the working balances sufficient to meet the needs of the Authority during the 2010/11 financial year and beyond.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the results of the review of risks, as shown in appendix B, be noted;**
- (2) that the proposed level of reserves of £3.6 million be approved and, as the current level of balances was £3.5 million, £100,000 be transferred to the general reserve on 31 March 2010, this to be found from the current year's projected underspend on the revenue budget.**

50 PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE 2010/11

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing members of the Authority's obligations under the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code.

RESOLVED that the Prudential Limits for 2010/11 as follows, be approved:

Estimate of ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	5.90%
Estimate of the incremental impact of the new capital investment decisions on the Council Tax (Band D)	£2.67
Estimate of total capital expenditure to be incurred	£6,689,000
Estimate of capital financing requirement	£33,326,000
Operational boundary	£32,746,000
Authorised limit	£36,021,000
Upper limit for fixed rate interest exposures	100.00%
Upper limit for variable rate interest exposures	30.00%
Loan maturity	Limits
Under 12 months	Upper 20% Lower 0%
12 months to 5 years	Upper 30% Lower 0%
5 years to 10 years	Upper 75% Lower 0%
Over 10 years	Upper 100% Lower 20%
Over 20 years	Upper 100% Lower 20%
Upper limit for principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days	£2,000,000.00

51 MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY 2010/11

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that the following Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2010/11 be approved:

- (a) for all borrowing and credit arrangements to fund capital expenditure incurred before or during 2006/07, the minimum revenue provision applied in 2010/11 would continue to be calculated on the basis of the 4% CFR (capital financing requirement) method. This method would continue to be used in future years for capital expenditure incurred during or before 2006/07;
- (b) for all borrowing and credit arrangements to fund capital expenditure incurred from 2007/08 onwards, the minimum revenue provision applied in 2010/11 would be calculated on the basis of the Asset Life method.

52 PROPOSED CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS 2010/11 TO 2012/13 AND LEVELS OF COUNCIL TAX 2010/11

Further to minute 26 of the Finance and Resources Committee dated 8 January 2010, consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

- (1) that, with the exception of Councillor Spencer who requested his abstention from voting be recorded, all councillors attending the meeting agreed a 2.9% increase in the Council Tax for 2010/11 and approved the following:

- (a) **the capital budgets for each of the financial years 2010/11 to 2012/13 as set out in the report;**
- (b) **with the exception of the contingency item being reduced by £22,449 in paragraph 2.53 of the report, the revenue budgets for each of the financial years 2010/11 to 2012/13, as set out in the report, notwithstanding the issues around future budget reductions;**
- (c) **the following levels of Council Tax for 2010/11:**

	£
Band A	46.46
Band B	54.20
Band C	61.95
Band D	69.69
Band E	85.18
Band F	100.66
Band G	116.15
Band H	139.38

- (d) **the precept figure of £23,099,851 be applied to the whole of the City and District Council areas as general expenses;**
- (2) **that it be noted that the precept for 2010/11 would be collected from City and District Councils in accordance with their agreed tax bases with payments in equal instalments on dates agreed between financial officers;**
 - (3) **that the Finance and Resources Committee be thanked for their work on the budgets.**

53 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PLAN 2010-2013

Further to minute 34 dated 18 December 2009, consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated. The Chief Fire Officer agreed that the targets for equality and diversity in the document were challenging and ambitious but was confident that these would be met. He outlined the work which was already being undertaken by Mohammed Aslam who would report back on his audit in two weeks time. Considerable progress had already been made with female recruits.

RESOLVED

- (1) **that the new 2010-2013 Service Plan be approved and adopted, the final printed document to be distributed to the Fire Authority at its meeting on 28 May 2010;**
- (2) **that everyone involved in the preparation of the Service Plan be thanked for their efforts.**

54 REVISED FRAMEWORK FOR EQUALITIES WITHIN THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated. The Chief Fire Officer reported that an awareness session for members would be organised on how the Framework fitted together.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the introduction of the Fire and Rescue Service Equality Framework be noted;**
- (2) that the terms of reference of the Strategic Equalities Board be revised to include reference to the new Framework and the Single Equality Scheme, as set out in appendix 1 of the report, and the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Risk Response, who Chaired the Employee Action Group and Equalities Steering Group, be included on the membership list to improve the reporting process.**

55 NEW DIMENSION TRANSFER OF ASSETS

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated. In response to members' questions on the financial situation if the section 31 funding was withdrawn, the Chief Fire Officer was confident that the loss of £120,000 over 3 years could be absorbed within the Authority's costs.

RESOLVED that the decision of the Chief Fire Officer to commit to the transfer of the New Dimension assets to the ownership of Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Service be noted.

56 RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON FiRe CONTROL

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing councillors of a circular from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) seeking responses to a proposed agreement between the Local Authority Controlled Companies (LACC) running the Regional Control Centres and DCLG.

RESOLVED that the contents of Fire Service Circular 73/2009 and the consultation taking place be noted and the response to the consultation on FiReControl: Agreement between LACCs/London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and the DCLG be approved.

57 ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated. The Chief Fire Officer pointed out that the Auditors had again issued an unqualified opinion in relation to the accounts for 2008/09 and they had stated that the financial accounts were of a high standard and supported by good quality papers. They had not identified any areas of weakness in internal control arrangements and there were no issues arising from the audit they wished to raise. With regard to the three areas where the service 'needed to concentrate', considerable progress had already been made.

RESOLVED that the External Auditors' annual audit and inspection management letter be noted.

58 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Consideration was given to a report of the Clerk, copies of which had been circulated, updating councillors on the current levels of allowances as contained within the Members Allowance Scheme.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the payment of Members' Allowances under the scheme for the financial year commencing on 1 April 2010 be approved.

59 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED

(1) that, in line with political balance, councillors be appointed to the following Committees -

**Personnel and Human Resources Committees – Councillor Cross
Policy and Strategy Committee – Councillor Sykes
Appointments Committee – Councillor Bobo**

(2) that it be noted that depending on the result of the bi-election in Mansfield the following week, the position on political balance may have to be reviewed.

60 FIRE AND RESCUE 2010 CONFERENCE

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

RESOLVED that the Chair, Vice-Chair and two other councillors of the Authority (names to be notified to the Chief Fire Officer) be authorised to attend the Fire and Rescue 2010 Conference and Exhibition in Harrogate on 29 and 30 June 2010.

61 REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD UPDATE

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

RESOLVED that the business of the East Midlands Regional Management Board at its meetings on 15 October 2009 and 21 January 2010 and the reduction in this Authority's contribution by £12,500 be noted.

62 COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Consideration was given to reports of the Chairs of the following Committees, copies of which had been circulated, including minutes of those meetings:

- (a) Performance Monitoring Committee
- (b) Finance and Resources Committee
- (c) Community Safety Committee
- (d) Human Resources Committee

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.