



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES

of meeting of the Authority held on **17 SEPTEMBER 2010** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Nottingham from 10.30 am to 12.15 pm.

Membership

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

Members absent are marked ^

26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cross (on other County Council business), Councillor Grocock (on other City Council business) and from Councillors Bobo, Cooper and Zadrozny.

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

28 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 25 June 2010, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

29 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reported on the following matters -

- (a) Nottinghamshire Ladies Driving Challenge event – held at Newark on Sunday 12 September and attended by a number of councillors. The event had been well organised and had raised over £15,000 for the Fire Fighters Charity as well as trying to encourage women to become involved. Members paid tribute to Lea-Anne Abbiss and the volunteers for an excellent event.
- (b) Fire walk – councillors were urged to sponsor Councillor Kevin Rostance for his fire walk which was raising money for the Fire Fighters Charity.
- (c) The media – councillors were urged to contact the communications staff at HQ if they were approached for comments/views.
- (d) Control centre – it had been mentioned that there might only be 3 regional centres instead of 9 but whatever happened it was expected that one would be in the East Midlands.
- (e) Regional Management Boards – a report would be taken to the December 2010 meeting of the Authority about future involvement in the work of the Board.
- (f) Away day – the next one would be held on Wednesday 29 October 2010 and councillors were urged to attend as the spending review would be discussed. Any councillor who could not attend would require a briefing.
- (g) Nottinghamshire Firefighters Memorial Appeal – a presentation was made by David Needham (retired firefighter) on the efforts to raise £50,000 to provide a permanent memorial to firefighters who had lost their lives while carrying out their duties. It was intended to provide a bronze statue on a granite plinth on which would be the names of the 37 members of the Fire Service and Civil Defence Service who had died. The site could be the grounds of Nottingham Castle or the Memorial Gardens on Victoria Embankment.

RESOLVED that the Authority fully endorses the aims and objectives of the Nottinghamshire Firefighters Memorial Appeal in seeking to provide a memorial and, whilst it could not provide direct financial assistance, agreed to provide whatever support and advice it could give in furtherance of achieving the desired outcome.

30 EXTERNAL AUDITORS' ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, together with the Annual Governance Report 2009/10.

John Cornett, District Auditor, was present for this item.

Mr Cornett said he planned to issue an unqualified opinion on the financial statements, subject to clearance of outstanding matters. The accounts presented were of a good standard and were supported by good quality working papers. He was satisfied that the Authority had put in place satisfactory corporate arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources and he planned to issue an unqualified opinion on the Authority's arrangements. The audit had been completed within the agreed fee and there were no relationships giving rise to a threat to independence, objectivity and integrity.

With regard to the future of the Audit Commission Mr Cornett confirmed that it would continue until December 2012 and would therefore undertake the audits for the next two years.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the contents of the External Auditors' Annual Governance Report be noted and the management representation letter to the External Auditors be approved, this being a necessary pre-cursor to the issuing of the audit opinion;**
- (2) that Mr Cornett be thanked for attending the meeting and for his work on the audit;**
- (3) that the thanks of the Authority to the Treasurer, Neil Timms and Sue Cornish and her team for their hard work on the audit be recorded.**

31 AMENDMENT TO TERMS OF REFERENCE - PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED that the amendments to the terms of reference, as detailed in appendix A to the report, be approved, the role and the responsibility of the Committee to be as follows -

Role – to take decisions with regard to the following specific personnel issues.

Responsibility – to ensure that the Fire and Rescue Authority meets its requirements and responsibilities with regard to its employees in respect of contractual, legal, financial and pension together with issues.

32 SHIFT CHANGE TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and the Chair of the Shift Change Task and Finish Review Group, copies of which had been circulated.

Mr Philip Coates of the Fire Brigade Union asked the following question -

“Under financial implications it states on page 8 that savings have been made and on page 22 that sustained savings have been made and these will affect base budgets going forward. Can we have the monetary value of these savings that have come about by the changes to the shift system worked by wholetime shift personnel? Can these figures

include the £1 million plus that was set aside by the Authority and the previous Chief, to pay personnel for accepting shift change that has never been paid to those personnel.”

The Chair responded as follows -

“The primary cash savings achieved from the introduction of the self-rostering are circa £25-£30,000. This has come from the reduction in detached duties. Other less tangible reductions have come from recent overtime payments, but this has to be seen against increases in overtime used to cover establishment deficiencies.

The reduction of sickness also has a net effect in terms of savings, although this does not release a direct cash return to the Service.

In respect of the £1 million plus previously set aside, this should not be linked to current arrangements. Monies of this amount were set aside as part of the process to introduce 3 x 8 hours shift patterns in 2004/05. When alternative arrangements were negotiated this money was used to support other areas of budget and Council Tax in subsequent years.”

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted and in view of the positive industrial arrangements and successful implementation of self rostering, the Shift Change Task and Finish Review Group be dissolved with the proviso that, should the need arise, the Group could be reconvened by the Fire Authority;**
- (2) that everyone involved in the work of the Review Group be thanked for their hard work.**

33 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

Consideration was given to the report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, providing a comprehensive picture of all treasury management policies, plans, activities and results for the financial year 2009/10.

RESOLVED that the contents of the treasury management annual report 2009/10 be noted.

34 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, together with the draft Annual Report 2009/10 updating the community and stakeholders on the Service's activities during the previous year.

RESOLVED that the Annual Report 2009/10 be approved.

35 FIRE FUTURES PROJECT

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, on the current fire futures project being undertaken by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Fire Service Sector.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted and the involvement of the Chief Fire Officer and Chair in the project be supported;
- (2) that, as and when available, further information be presented to the Policy and Strategy Committee prior to being presented to the Authority on the progress of the review and its implications for Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service.

36 OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT PEER REVIEW REPORT

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

RESOLVED that the findings of the operational assessment peer review be accepted and the Chief Fire Officer be tasked with actioning the key recommendations set out in the review and reports be submitted to the Performance Monitoring Committee at the earliest opportunity.

37 COMMITTEE OUTCOMES FOR NOTING

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

- (a) Policy and Strategy Committee 30 July 2010
- (b) Performance Monitoring Committee 9 July 2010
- (c) Finance and Resources Committee 9 July 2010
- (d) Community Safety Committee 16 July 2010
- (e) Human Resources Committee 23 July 2010

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

38 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, pursuant to section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items on the basis that, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

39 ARMS LENGTH COMPANY UPDATE

Further to minute 38 dated 18 December 2009, consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the actions of the Directors of the Trading Company in respect of the decision not to transfer the Commercial Training Unit function to the trading company and the intention to include hydrant maintenance within the Trading Company, following statutory consultation, be noted;**
- (2) that the closure of the Commercial Training Unit on the grounds that it could no longer be legally continued be approved.**

40 FINANCIAL OUTLOOK 2011-14

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

RESOLVED that the general principles for the development of the budget 2011/14, set out in paragraphs 2.19 and 2.20 of the report, be approved.

41 SECONDMENT OPPORTUNITY

This item was withdrawn.