



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES

of meeting of the Authority held on **17 DECEMBER 2010** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Nottingham from 10.35 am to 11.35 am.

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 ^

42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Grocock (on other City Council business) and from Councillor Hemsall.

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

44 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 17 September 2010, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

45 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reported on the following matters -

- (a) Grant settlement – together with the Chief Fire Officer he had attended a meeting the previous Wednesday with other Chairs of Fire Authorities and Chief Fire Officers to receive and give comment on the Government's grant settlement. The Minister had announced that Metropolitan Authorities had received a reduction in excess of 9% in grant in 2011/12 but that they were better placed to consume this as they were such large authorities. Even though this Fire Authority was only relatively small it had received one of the worst settlements in the country with a grant reduction of 9.5% in 2011/12 and a further reduction of 3.4% in 2012/13 and was therefore unable to consume the cut unlike the Metropolitan Authorities. He had therefore written to the Minister requesting an urgent meeting. He was also concerned about a statement made by the Minister that there would be even bigger cuts in 2013/14 and 2014/15 and he wished to receive clarification of what this meant as it would undoubtedly mean that front line services would be affected. Ministers had constantly claimed that cuts in services would be to 'back office' services but he was under no doubt that this level of cuts would affect front line services, particularly 'blue light emergency cover.'
- (b) Passing out ceremony – the previous day, along with Councillor Fielding, he had attended the passing out ceremony for new recruits. This had been undertaken by the new recruits in the snow and such had been their enthusiasm that, together with the pride shown by parents etc and the dedication and commitment of the trainers, it had made them both feel extremely proud.
- (c) Mansfield Fire Station Museum – Terry Spalding, the curator of the museum was seeking additional funding (approximately £2,000) and if any individual or local authority could assist they should contact him direct.
- (d) Equalities framework – this Fire Authority was now achieving in the equalities arena and councillors would look forward to hearing the good news under agenda item 8 (minute 49).
- (e) Chief Civil Servant – the Chief Civil Servant involved in fire was moving post and would be replaced shortly.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

46 COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW (CSR) 2010

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, providing an update on the CSR 2010 and the provisional Formula Grant Settlement for 2011/12 and 2012/13. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the levels of grant distributed in 2011/12 would be £22.634m, a reduction of 9.5%, and in 2012/13 it would be £21.864m, a further reduction of 3.4%. This was a cumulative reduction of 12.6% over the two years. These figures took no account of inflation, including pay inflation. It was

also possible that a further 21% reduction may be sought by the Government in 2013/14 and 2014/15. It was confirmed that the savings required by the Authority in the next 4 years would be around £8m.

With regard to Council Tax it had been announced that Nottinghamshire would receive a grant of £581,000 if Council Tax rates were maintained at the same levels as in 2010/11. This roughly equated to the amount that could be raised by a 2.5% rise in tax. It appeared that this would be preserved for each of the 4 years of the CSR period although there were no promises beyond March 2015. Consideration would have to be given as to whether to accept the grant and have a zero increase in Council Tax in year 1 or whether to levy an increase and refuse the grant.

RESOLVED that the update on the CSR be noted and Peter Hurford, Neil Timms, Sue Maycock and her staff be thanked for their hard work in assimilating the information and bringing it to the Authority.

47 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID TERM REVIEW 2010/11

Consideration was given to the report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated. The Treasurer referred to the Government announcement in October 2010 that Public Works Loans Board interest rates would be 1% above gilt yields resulting in the cost of borrowing for the public sector increasing, presumably to discourage authorities from borrowing because of the consequential increase in the public sector deficit. This would have to be factored into future calculations.

RESOLVED that the update on the treasury management activity during the first half of the 2010/11 financial year be noted.

48 AMENDMENT TO GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS - HUMAN RESOURCES 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 of the Human Resources Committee be approved as follows -

'To act as the health and safety risk management champions for the Service and to receive reports from the Chief Fire Officer on health and safety risk management progress within the Service on no less than an annual basis, or when required.'

49 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES EQUALITIES FRAMEWORK: PEER CHALLENGE OUTCOME

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer together with the Narrative Report for 'Achieving Level' of the Fire and Rescue Service Equality Framework, copies of which had been circulated. Matt Sismey, Equality and Diversity Officer, outlined the measures taken to obtain the 'achieving' level, including the peer challenge and confirmed that if the Service wished to maintain this they would be assessed again in 3 years time.

The Chair stressed that this was an excellent achievement by the Service as it was very tough to obtain 'achieving' level. Press releases were being prepared so that customers and partners were made aware of the achievement.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the achievement of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Service in obtaining the 'achieving' level of the Fire and Rescue Services Equality Framework be noted and the long term commitment of the Service to reach the 'excellent' level by 2013 be endorsed;**
- (2) that everyone involved in this achievement, including Matt Sismey and his team together with other colleagues and councillors be thanked for their hard work.**

50 STRATEGIC EQUALITIES BOARD OUTCOMES

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

RESOLVED that the business and actions of the Strategic Equalities Board meeting held on 10 September 2010 be noted.

51 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 29 October 2010
- (b) Performance Monitoring Committee 1 October 2010
- (c) Finance and Resources Committee 15 October 2010
- (d) Community Safety Committee 8 October 2010
- (e) Human Resources Committee 22 October 2010

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.