



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority

# **POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE OUTCOMES**

Report of the Chair of the Policy and Strategy Committee

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**Agenda No:**

**Date:** 25 February 2011

**Purpose of Report:**

To report to Members the business and actions of the Policy and Strategy Committee meeting of Friday 04 February 2011.

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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## 1. BACKGROUND

As part of the revised Governance arrangements the Authority has delegated key responsibilities for policy and strategy to the Policy and Strategy Committee. As part of those delegated responsibilities, the Chair of the Policy and Strategy 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 Policy and Strategy Committee meeting of Friday 04 February 2011 are attached to this report at Appendix A. The following summarises the main points of the papers discussed at the meeting.
- 2.2 Consideration was given to a report which provided the Committee with a summary of the Audit Commission report, dated September 2010 on business continuity management in the Fire and Rescue Service. Nottinghamshire and the City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Service's business continuity arrangements had been deemed to be satisfactory and would continue to be reviewed and reported on. It was resolved:
- that the findings of the Audit Commission report be noted and accepted;
  - that the Chief Fire Officer and his team be tasked with the provision and maintenance of business continuity arrangements;
  - that a report be submitted annually to the Performance Monitoring Committee, updating the Committee on business continuity arrangements.
- 2.3 A further report for consideration by the Committee updated Members on the detailed provisions of sections 13 and 16 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and how the Chief Fire Officer may seek to engage with neighbouring Services under the provisions. Section 13 obliged fire and rescue authorities to group together, so far as practicable to provide mutual assistance and section 16 extended the power of fire and rescue authorities to enter into contractual arrangements with others to provide services in the execution of their functions. Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Fire and Rescue Service had some longstanding arrangements with its neighbouring services that were updated following the introduction of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. It was resolved:
- that the provisions of sections 13 and 16 Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 be noted;
  - that the existing delegations to the Chief Fire Officer be endorsed and the Chief Fire Officer authorised to enter into any operational arrangements

with neighbouring services and that details of the delegations be included in the annual report of the scheme;

- that the Chief Fire Officer submit to a future meeting of this committee:
  - reports and updates on the processes and amendments between Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and neighbouring services;
  - a report giving details of section 13 and section 16 arrangements currently in place.

2.4 Additionally, Members were updated on the legacy issues arising out of the cancellation of Fire Control on 20 December 2010 and on the actions required as a consequence of the project cancellation. It was resolved:

- that the report on the current status of the Regional Control Centre project be noted;
- that the full Fire Authority should receive further reports on:
  - (i) the closure of the Local Authority Controlled Company and its implications (a future full Fire Authority meeting);
  - (ii) the closure of the Regional Management Boards and its implications (25 February 2011);
  - (iii) a proposed response from the Fire Authority to the consultation on the future of fire and rescue control services in England (25 February 2011);
- that the Chief Fire Officer be tasked with working up a strategy and recommendations for the future control service within Nottinghamshire, which should be presented to the Fire Authority at the earliest opportunity.

2.5 A further report gave Members details of the Localism Bill introduced in December 2010, and in particular, the specific elements which amended the provisions of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. It was resolved that:

- that the Fire and Rescue implications of the Localism Bill be noted ; and
- that the Chief Fire Officer submit a further report on the outcome and the implications for the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service.

2.6 Finally, the Committee were asked to consider exclusion of the public from the meeting for the remaining item on the agenda, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972. This was agreed, and the Committee went on to consider a report regarding property negotiations.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

All financial implications were considered as part of the original reports submitted to the Policy and Strategy Committee.

### **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 Policy and Strategy 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**

The Service's performance in relation to matters addressed through Policy and Strategy Committee is scrutinised through a range of audit processes. The Service needs to continue to perform well in these areas as external scrutiny through Comprehensive Performance Assessment and auditors' judgement is key to future Service delivery.

### **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the contents of this report and the business undertaken by the Policy and Strategy Committee.

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

None.

Councillor Darrell Pulk  
**CHAIR OF POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

FOR NOTE

## APPENDIX A



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

#### POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

#### **MINUTES**

of meeting held on **4 FEBRUARY 2011** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge from 10.04 am to 11.50 am.

#### **Membership**

Councillor D Pulk (Chair)  
Councillor B Cooper  
Councillor B Cross  
Councillor T Pettengell  
Councillor K Rigby  
Councillor M Wood

Members absent are marked ^

#### **19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests were made.

#### **21 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 29 October 2010, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair;

#### **22 BUSINESS CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, giving a summary of the Audit Commission report, dated September 2010 on business continuity management in the Fire and Rescue Service. Nottinghamshire and the City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Service's business continuity arrangements had been deemed to be satisfactory and would continue to be reviewed and reported on.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the findings of the Audit Commission report be noted and accepted;**
- (2) that the Chief Fire Officer and his team be tasked with the provision and maintenance of business continuity arrangements;**
- (3) that a report be submitted annually to the Performance Monitoring Committee, updating the Committee on business continuity arrangements.**

#### **23 SECTIONS 13 AND 16 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES ACT 2004**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, updating members on the detailed provisions of sections 13 and 16 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and how the Chief Fire Officer may seek to engage with neighbouring Services under the provisions. Section 13 obliged fire and rescue authorities to group together, so far as practicable to provide mutual assistance and section 16 extended the power of fire and rescue authorities to enter into contractual arrangements with others to provide services in the execution of their functions. Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Fire and Rescue Service had some longstanding arrangements with its neighbouring services that were updated following the introduction of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the provisions of sections 13 and 16 Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 be noted;**
- (2) that the existing delegations to the Chief Fire Officer be endorsed and the Chief Fire Officer authorised to enter into any operational arrangements with neighbouring services and that details of the delegations be included in the annual report of the scheme;**
- (3) that the Chief Fire Officer submit to a future meeting of this committee:**
  - (a) reports and updates on the processes and amendments between Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and neighbouring services;**
  - (b) a report giving details of section 13 and section 16 arrangements currently in place.**

## **24 REGIONAL CONTROL CENTRE UPDATE**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, updating the Committee on the legacy issues arising out of the cancellation of Fire Control on 20 December 2010 and on the actions required as a consequence of the project cancellation.

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the report on the current status of the Regional Control Centre project be noted;**
- (2) that the full Fire Authority should receive further reports on:**
  - (iv) the closure of the Local Authority Controlled Company and its implications (a future full Fire Authority meeting);**
  - (v) the closure of the Regional Management Boards and its implications (25 February 2011);**
  - (vi) a proposed response from the Fire Authority to the consultation on the future of fire and rescue control services in England (25 February 2011);**
- (3) that the Chief Fire Officer be tasked with working up a strategy and recommendations for the future control service within Nottinghamshire, which should be presented to the Fire Authority at the earliest opportunity.**

## **25 LOCALISM BILL**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, giving details of the Localism Bill introduced in December 2010, and in particular, the specific elements which amended the provisions of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the Fire and Rescue implications of the Localism Bill be noted ; and**
- (2) that the Chief Fire Officer submit a further report on the outcome and the implications for the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service.**

## **26 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining item on the agenda in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 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.**

## **27 PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS**



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

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted and the authorisation requested in section 9.2 of the report be agreed, save that the consultation referred to be with the Chair of the Authority and the Chief Fire Officer.

FOR NOTE