



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

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority

# 9/11 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY INVITATION

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

---

**Agenda No:**

**Date:** 27 May 2011

**Purpose of Report:**

To advise Members of a specific invitation to the 9/11 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event and to seek approval for representatives of the Service to attend.

## CONTACT OFFICER

**Name :** Frank Swann  
Chief Fire Officer

**Tel :** (0115) 967 0880

**Email :** frank.swann@notts-fire.gov.uk

**Media Enquiries  
Contact :** Elisabeth Reeson  
(0115) 967 5889 elisabeth.reeson@notts-fire.gov.uk

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Following the tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, fire fighters from Nottinghamshire, as across the UK and the world, moved to support their colleagues in New York. A number of fundraising activities took place and significant donations were made to support loss and bereavement.
- 1.2 As part of this process some lasting relationships were established and one such arrangement which evolved was between Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) and the Gear Up Foundation in New York. Through the tireless work of one NFRS employee, a pledge was made by the Service to support the provision of decommissioned equipment and fire kit to areas of the world less well off.

## **2. REPORT**

- 2.1 Since beginning its association with the Gear Up Foundation, NFRS has redistributed much of its obsolete equipment to areas of the world less well off than the UK. Co-ordinated primarily on a voluntary basis by a NFRS employee, equipment has been distributed to the Philippines, New Orleans (following the floods in 2005) and more recently to Haiti following the disaster in 2010. A full breakdown of the nature of the support is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.2 The founder of the Gear Up Foundations visited NFRS in June 2006 in a much publicised visit to express gratitude for the Service's efforts and also to maintain the relationship between the two organisations. The efforts of NFRS were recognised formally in 2009 where the employee who co-ordinates much of the support, was awarded the USA Presidential Volunteer Award for over 4000 hours of work. The award was given by George W Bush.
- 2.3 The invitation to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks will be a significant event. As a consequence of the trans-Atlantic relationship which has emerged between NFRS and Gear Up, a formal invitation was received by the Chief Fire Officer on 17 March 2011. The invitation specifically invited the Chief Fire Officer, the employee who leads on the relationship, and selected members of the Service to the memorial service which will be held at Ground Zero.
- 2.4 The letter of invitation is not attached to this report as it names specifically the NFRS employee and members of his family, however the Chief Fire Officer will provide anonymised copies at the meeting for confirmation of the invitation.
- 2.5 Clearly invitation and attendance at such a prestigious event is just reward for the efforts made by NFRS and their employee to support those less well off. However, it is also recognised that NFRS is in difficult financial times and whilst attending will certainly raise the status of the organisation, it could also lead to some criticism.

2.6 Therefore there are some key options which the Fire Authority might wish to consider:

- To decline the invitation to send representation to the 9/11 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- Accept and support the attendance of a small delegation to include the Chair of the Authority, Chief Fire Officer or a deputy, and the NFRS employee who received the presidential award.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications arising from this report relate solely to the cost of attending the event. The nearest airport which flies to New York is Birmingham, where a return economy ticket is circa £500 per person. Accommodation in the New York City area is likely to be at a premium for this event, but there are a broad range of options which could be explored to minimise any costs.

### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are some minor implications arising from attendance if the Fire Authority opt to support attendance, such as the potential usage of annual leave for the individuals if required. These are not significant and could be overcome.

### **5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

There are no specific equality issues arising from this report.

### **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 from this report.

### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members consider the options laid out within Paragraph 2.6 above, specifically:

- To decline the invitation to send representation to the 9/11 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- To accept the invitation and support the attendance of a small delegation, to include the Chair of the Authority, Chief Fire Officer or a deputy, and the NFRS employee who received the presidential award.

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

- The letter of invitation from the Gear Up Foundation.

Frank Swann  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

## APPENDIX A

### Lapu-lapu City, Philippines, 2004

35 full sets of fire kit (tunics, leggings, boots, helmets, gloves)

10 pairs of fire boots

5 tunics

5 pairs of leggings

### Cebu City, Philippines, 2005

40 full sets of fire kit (tunics, leggings, boots, helmets, gloves, flash hoods)

5 pairs of fire boots

9 tunics

15 pairs of leggings

3 Cengar saws (reciprocating)

### New Orleans, USA, Floods, 2005

50 full sets of fire kit (tunics, leggings, boots, helmets, gloves, flash hoods)

### Bohal City, Philippines, 2006

4 breathing apparatus sets complete

23 breathing apparatus cylinders

50 full sets of fire kit (tunics, leggings, boots, helmets, gloves, flash hoods)

1 set of line communications set

15 Cengar saws (reciprocating)

10 high visibility jackets

5 x 100mtr lines (ropes) and bags

**Bohal City, Philippines, 2007**

83 tunics

57 pairs of leggings

46 pairs of fire boots

30 helmets

3 high visibility jackets

40 pairs of fire gloves

2 Akron hand held branches

1 DSX alarm sounder

**Ecuador, South America, 2008**

40 full sets of fire kit (tunics, leggings, boots, helmets, gloves, flash hoods)

10 Cengar saws (reciprocating)

2 thermal imaging cameras

**Haiti Disaster, 2010**

75 full sets of fire kit (tunics, leggings, boots, helmets, gloves, flash hoods)

**Awaiting Shipment to Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia and Panama**

900 tunics and leggings

350 helmets

45 pairs of fire boots

3 thermal imaging cameras