



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Report of the Chair of the
Finance and Resources Committee

Agenda No:

Date: 27 May 2011

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members on the business and actions of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting of Friday 01 April 2011.

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1. BACKGROUND

As part of the revised Governance arrangements the Authority has delegated key responsibilities for Finance and Resources to the Finance and Resources Committee. As part of those delegated responsibilities, the Chair of the Finance and Resources 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 Finance and Resources Committee held on Friday 01 April 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 firstly given to three monitoring reports regarding Capital Budget; Revenue and Prudential Code, for the periods up to 28 February 2011. All three reports were noted, however in respect of Prudential Code Monitoring it was further resolved that, having considered the prudential limit breach as outlined in the report, no corrective action be taken in regard to this specific issue.
- 2.3 The Committee went on to consider a report updating on the Treasury Management Strategy 2011/12. The Strategy was noted and the 2011/12 Minimum Revenue Provision Policy was approved. Additionally, it was resolved that a summary report be submitted to the next full Fire and Rescue Authority meeting to enable Councillors to confirm recommendations contained in this report.
- 2.4 Value for money formed the basis of a further report, outlining the proposed programme for achieving and demonstrating value for money in 2011/12 and reporting progress against the value for money programme for 2010/11. It was resolved that the report be noted.
- 2.5 A further report was presented regarding final notification of Council Tax Freeze Grant for 2011/12. It was resolved that the full amount of £579,814 Council Tax Freeze Grant be noted and that the shortfall from the predicted amount of Council Tax Freeze Grant be offset against the surplus and deficits account.
- 2.6 The Committee was finally asked to consider exclusion of the public for the remaining three items in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Association Act 1972. This was endorsed and the Committee went on to consider three reports regarding Internal Audit Reports, Arrangements for Building Maintenance and Cardiff Checks.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All of the reports considered by Finance and Resources Committee on 01 April 2011 were finance related. However, there were no significant financial implications arising from those reports.

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 Finance and Resources 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

There are no additional risk management issues arising from this report other than those specifically reported to the Committee as part of the reports under consideration.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report and the business undertaken by the Finance and Resources Committee.

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

None.

Councillor Penny Griggs
CHAIR OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

APPENDIX A



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **1 APRIL 2011** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge from 10.00 am to 11.15 am.

Membership

Councillor P Griggs (Chair)
Councillor A Foster
Councillor K Girling
Councillor T Pettengell
Councillor M Wood

Members absent are marked ^

Councillor Cooper attended as an observer.

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

28 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 14 January 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

29 CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 28 FEBRUARY 2011

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, and which was presented by Mr Timms, Head of Finance and Resources.

The following points were highlighted from the report:

- in regard to the Aerial Ladder Platform (paragraph 2.6), it was noted that the appliance was 10 years old but would not have been used on a daily basis and was provided with 12 months warranty, 3 years free servicing and free initial training for staff;
- the refurbishment of Tuxford Fire Station (paragraph 2.10) had been subject to complications regarding groundwater and building control and, as a result, it was predicted that outturn would total approximately £90,000, even though every effort had been made to re-use redundant equipment from other areas;
- as a result of the overspend at Tuxford, the property programme underspend (paragraph 2.8) of £593,000 would be reduced;
- the contractor for the Carlton Fire Station, Bovis, (paragraph 2.11) had achieved an underspend of £150,000 on their contract;
- the consultants referred to in regard to Information and Communications Technology (paragraph 2.17) were essentially contractors which were to implement the project;
- the Regional Finance System (paragraph 2.20) consisted of three separate systems which were bought in conjunction with Leicestershire and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Services to achieve a 'three for the price of two' offer, the total cost being shared between the three Services. While information was shared between the Services, each system operated individually.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

30 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT TO 28 FEBRUARY 2011

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, outlining and analysing the financial performance of the of the Service in the year 2010/11.

Councillors were informed that the £4 million revenue contribution originally programmed for 2011/12 was in fact to be made in 2010/11 in order to achieve revenue advantages in subsequent years.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

31 PRUDENTIAL CODE MONITORING REPORT TO 28 FEBRUARY 2011-04-07

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, outlining the performance of prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management to 28 February 2011.

The report explained the implications of a breach in indicator for lower limit loans maturing in 10 to 20 years but, in effect, this breach would not have an impact on the financial position of the Authority.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that, having considered the prudential limit breach as outlined in the report, no corrective action be taken in regard to this specific issue.**

32 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2011/12

Consideration was given to the report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, informing Councillors of the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy for 2011/12.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Treasury Management Strategy 2011/12 be noted;**
- (2) that a summary report be submitted to the next full Fire and Rescue Authority meeting to enable Councillors to confirm the recommendations contained in this report;**
- (3) that the 2011/12 Minimum Revenue Provision Policy be approved.**

33 VALUE FOR MONEY

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, outlining the proposed programme for achieving and demonstrating value for money in 2011/12 and reporting progress against the value for money programme for 2010/11.

It was noted that, while savings had been achieved, not all had been registered as value for money but would be shown elsewhere as efficiency savings and recorded as value for money in the future.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

34 FINAL NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL TAX FREEZE GRANT FOR 2011/12

The Chair of the meeting was of the opinion that this item, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the special circumstances that the final grant sum differed to that predicted.

Further to minute 61 dated 25 February 2011, consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which were placed around the table and submitted to the on-line agenda following the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the full amount of £579,814 Council Tax Freeze Grant be noted;**
- (2) that the shortfall from the predicted amount of Council Tax Freeze Grant be offset against the surplus and deficits account.**

35 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items 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, as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

36 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS

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

RESOLVED that the recommendations in the report, which had been agreed with the Chief Fire Officer, be implemented without delay.

37 ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE

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

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

38 CARFIFF CHECKS

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

RESOLVED that the recommendations in the report, which had been agreed with the Chief Fire Officer, be implemented without delay.