



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: 16 September 2011

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members on the business and actions of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting of Friday 08 July 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 08 July 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 a report of the Treasurer, explaining to the Committee the current financial position of the Fire Authority post-budget, in terms of financial performance and risk exposures. It was resolved that the report be noted.
- 2.3 The out-turn of the capital programme for 2010/11 and seeking approval for slippage to be carried forward to 2011/12 was the focus of the next report which was considered. It was outlined to the Committee that some projects had been delayed or were naturally spread over more than one year and required their budgets to be slipped forward into 2011/12. It was resolved that the performance of the capital programme be noted and the slippage as set out in the report be approved.
- 2.4 A further report presented for consideration detailed for the Committee a report prepared by the Estates and Procurement Manager, setting out recommendations for investment in sustainable energy technologies and seeking changes to be made to the capital programme to enable the Authority to realise the benefits of such investment. It was resolved that the initiative be supported and £500,000 allocated in three tranches as set out in the report. It was further resolved that the Treasurer submit proposals for financing the project to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 2.5 After noting that an item on Restrictions on Tax Relief on Pensions had been withdrawn, the Committee went on to consider a final report informing them of the results of a recent tendering process for the provision of fleet maintenance, and the Committee noted the actions of Officers in entering into the contract with Nottingham City Council.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All of the reports considered by Finance and Resources Committee on 8 July 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 Steve Carroll
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 **8 JULY 2011** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge from 10.00 am to 11.52 am.

Membership

Councillor S Carroll (Chair)
Councillor B Cross
Councillor K Girling
Councillor T Pettengell
Councillor D Smith

Members absent are marked ^

Councillors B Grocock, E Kerry, D Pulk and G Wheeler were present as observers.

1 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) **training/workshops in budgetary matters and financial processes would be available for members of the Committee. This would take place before the quarterly meetings, which would commence at 10.30 am to allow for this;**

(b) **item 7 on the agenda had been withdrawn;**

(c) **item 9 on the agenda was no longer considered exempt under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and hence the public did not need to be excluded from the meeting for consideration of this report.**

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 1 April 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

5 FINANCIAL POSITION REGARDING BUDGETS

Consideration was given to the report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, explaining to Councillors the current financial position of the Fire and Rescue Authority post budget, in terms of financial performance and risk exposures.

The Treasurer explained that the budgets for the years 2011/12 to 2014/15 were set at the Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on 25 February 2011 and that, following amendment, an alternative model was agreed to that originally presented by the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee. The original base budget anticipated for 2011/12 was £48.109 million. However, after taking into account all funding sources and a zero increase in council tax, the maximum allowable budget was £46.407 million, a difference of some £1.702 million which needed to be saved in 2011/12.

The savings to be generated for 2011/12 were broadly as follows:

Description	£
Savings dependent upon the Fire Cover Review	-357,219
Savings not dependent upon the Fire Cover Review	-1,480,721
Total savings	-1,837,940
Contribution to Fire Control Reserve	250,000
RCCO	2,514,000
Contribution from Balances	-2,628,188
Total	-1,702,128

These were set out in detail in the report in Appendix A.

The Head of Finance and Resources advised the meeting that the required savings were well on the way. The Fire and Rescue Authority had changed the way it procured goods and services which was resulting in savings. Vacancies were being held on the establishment. This would save on redundancies.

RESOLVED that the financial position as set out in the report be noted.

6 CAPITAL OUT-TURN FOR 2010/2011

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, reporting to Councillors on the out-turn of the capital programme for 2010/11 and seeking approval for slippage to be carried forward to 2011/12.

The Head of Finance and Resources explained that some projects had been delayed or were naturally spread over more than one year and required their budgets to be slipped forward into 2011/12.

Approval was sought to slip the following amounts forward:

Transport

	£
Rescue Pump Replacement Programme	299,000
Special Appliances	691,000
Small Vehicles	46,000

Property

Tuxford	14,000
Carlton	100,000
Blidworth	20,000
Battery Chargers	37,000
Occupational Health	6,000

Information Technology

Regional Finance System	72,000
HR/MIS Replacement	99,000
Business Process automation	145,000
CFRMIS Operational Intelligence	16,000

Total **1,545,000**

RESOLVED that the performance of the capital programme be noted and the slippage as set out above, be approved.

7 INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, bringing to the attention of Councillors a report prepared by the Estates and Procurement Manager, setting out his recommendations for investment in sustainable energy technologies and seeking approval for changes to be made to the capital programme to enable the Fire Authority to realise the benefits of such investment.

The Government offered initiatives for the production of renewable energy in the form of tariffs which could be used to offset the cost of energy usage and also allow surplus power to be 'sold' to the grid. Focus Architects had carried out a high level evaluation to identify the potential and suitability of the technologies and had concluded that on the 16 sites least likely to be affected by the Fire Cover Review outcomes, technologies such as photovoltaic cells (PV), wind generators and ground heat pumps were the most viable and had prepared estimates of the likely costs and paybacks of investment in these technologies.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the initiative be supported and £500,000 allocated in three tranches as set out in the report;**

- (2) that the Treasurer submit proposals for financing the project to the next meeting of the Committee.

8 RESTRICTIONS ON TAX RELIEF ON PENSIONS

This item was withdrawn.

9 FLEET MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing the Committee of the results of a recent tendering process for the provision of fleet maintenance. The tendering process which had been followed was explained to the Committee, including the principal objectives of creating the contract, the outcomes expected and the evaluation of the tenders. Through evaluation and feasibility analysis the best and final offer accepted was from Nottingham City Council and the new arrangements took effect from 1 July 2011.

RESOLVED that the Committee note the actions of officers in entering into the contract with Nottingham City Council.