



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

Agenda No:

Date: 16 September 2011

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members the business and actions of the Policy and Strategy Committee meeting of Friday 29 July 2011.

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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 29 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 given to a report regarding the Equalities Review and approval was sought from the Committee to adopt the revised objectives. It was resolved that the review attached to the report, inclusive of revised Local Performance Indicators and the revised objectives within the Equalities Action Plan, be approved and that approval to this approach be sought from the full Fire and Rescue Authority at its meeting on 16 September 2011
- 2.3 A further report updated Members on the outcome of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership bid for transitional funds for a regional approach to ICT. It was resolved that the outcome of the bid for regional funding be noted and that the original recommendation of the report from 1 April 2011, which was not to progress the regional option on the basis of cost, be endorsed.
- 2.4 Finally, a report was presented providing the Committee with information as to how the Fire Cover Review consultation process would be implemented. It was resolved that the consultation process and document put together to commence on 1 August 2011 to meet the requirements of engaging all stakeholders on the implications of the Fire Cover Review 2010 be noted.

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

APPENDIX A



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **29 JULY 2011** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge from 10.00 am to 11.05 am.

Membership

Councillor D Pulk (Chair)
Councillor S Fielding
Councillor T Pettengell
Councillor K Rigby
Councillor D Smith
^ Councillor G Wheeler
Councillor E Kerry (substitute for Councillor Wheeler)

Members absent are marked ^

Councillors Arnold and Grocock were present as observers.

1 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Wheeler

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 18 and 20 May 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

EQUALITIES REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, seeking approval of the Equalities Review and the revised objectives.

The Chief Fire Officer advised the Committee that, following the review led by the Equalities Officer, which had included consultation with external and internal stakeholders to ensure that a wide range of views were considered, a revised set of objectives and performance indicators had been developed and details were outlined in the review documentation attached to the report. In addition, the review had identified that the structure in place for governance and management of the equalities agenda was sound and that no changes were required.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the review attached to the report, inclusive of revised Local Performance Indicators and the revised objectives within the Equalities Action Plan, be approved;**
- (2) that approval to this approach be sought from the full Fire and Rescue Authority at its meeting on 16 September 2011.**

5

ICT UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, updating the Committee on the outcome of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership bid of £150,000 for transitional funds for a regional approach to ICT. The Chief Fire Officer advised the Committee that, on this occasion, the bid had been unsuccessful. Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service would now seek alternative ways in which to maintain and improve its ICT services whilst moving to reduce revenue costs. In the interim, the regional collaboration group would continue to work together to achieve as many efficiencies as possible through joint working.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the outcome of the bid for regional funding be noted;**
- (2) that the original recommendation of the report from 1 April 2011, which was not to progress the regional option on the basis of cost, be endorsed.**

6 FIRE COVER REVIEW – CONSULTATION PROCESS.

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, providing the Committee with information as to how the Fire Cover Review consultation process would be implemented. Given the scale of the consultation required, the Service had engaged Opinion Research Services (ORS) who had the required skills-sets to support the Service and who had worked with other Fire and Rescue Services across the Country which had engaged in wide ranging consultation over similar proposals.

Consultation would commence on 1 August 2011 and conclude on 23 October 2011. The results would be taken to the full Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on 16 December 2011. It was drawn to the Committee's attention that the process may be subject to judicial review which, if implemented, could significantly delay any implementation process.

The consultation process would use a number of formal methods to engage the business community, community and voluntary sectors, employees and their representatives and communities of both the City and County.

Methods to be used would include business breakfasts, stakeholder forums and focus groups. Meetings would be held to present the issues, allow for questions and answers and enable objections to be aired. The consultation document, 'Your Service - Our Vision', had been developed in-house with the support of ORS and posed all of the key questions that the Service would wish to engage with its stakeholders. There was a pull-out questionnaire to complete and return and this was also available for completion on the Services' website. Versions of the document would also be available in Braille. Copies would be placed in Council offices, GP surgeries, libraries and other public places.

In addition, the Services' Communications and Media Team would provide regular information in the form of briefing packs for Councillors, staff bulletins and public information via the website.

It was agreed that the Chief Fire Officer would arrange informal meetings with Councillors in September to review any trends being revealed by the results of the consultation as they were fed back.

RESOLVED that the consultation process and document put together to commence on 1 August 2011 to meet the requirements of engaging all stakeholders on the implications of the Fire Cover Review 2010 be noted.