



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 December 2011

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members the business and actions of the Policy and Strategy Committee meeting of Friday 28 October 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 28 October 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 of the Chief Fire Officer, giving details of the two current consultation processes relating to the Fire Fighters Pension Scheme and the Local Government Pension Scheme. It was resolved:
- (1) that the two consultation processes taking place be noted;
 - (2) that a sub-group be formed, comprising the Chair and Councillors Rigby and Wheeler, supported by the Treasurer, to meet and formulate a response to the consultations on behalf of the Policy and Strategy Committee;
 - (3) that the potential impact of industrial action linked to the two consultation processes be noted.
- 2.3 For the final report, Members were asked to consider exclusion of the public in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, which was agreed, and the Committee went on to consider a report updating on the final outcome of a property negotiation. It was resolved:
- (1) that the final agreement be noted;
 - (2) that a special meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee be convened to discuss the various financial implications of either demolishing the buildings on the Site immediately or on the sale of the Site, and to report the findings to the Fire Authority;
 - (3) that a working party comprising members of the Policy and Strategy Committee, supported by the Treasurer and independent clerical support, be formed to discuss the terms of reference of the independent inquiry and to make recommendations to the Policy and Strategy Committee.

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. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because this report is not associated with a policy, function or service. Its purpose is to update the Fire Authority on the outcomes of Committee business.

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 **28 OCTOBER 2011** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge from 10.00 am to 11.26 am.

Membership

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

Members absent are marked ^

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pettengell and Wheeler.

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors Pulk, Fielding, Rigby, Smith, Cooper and Kerry, the Chief Fire Officer and the Constitutional Services Officer declared a personal interest in agenda item 4, 'Pension Consultation', (minute 14) as they were all members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, but this did not preclude them from speaking or voting (where appropriate) at the meeting.

13 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

14 PENSIONS CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, giving details of the two current consultation processes relating to the Fire Fighters Pension Scheme and the Local Government Pension Scheme. The Chief Fire Officer explained to the meeting that the pension schemes in place for Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service employees were affected by the proposals put forward by the Government to increase employee contributions. Consultation on the Fire Fighters Pension Scheme and the New Fire Fighters Pension Scheme were due to conclude on 2 December 2011 and consultation on proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme were due to conclude on 6 January 2012.

It was not feasible for Officers to advise the Fire Authority on how to respond to the consultations as they had declarable interests in the consultation processes. It would be more appropriate for Councillors to form a sub-group to consider whether and how to respond to the consultation processes.

Concern was expressed by some Councillors as to the effects on the various schemes if the increase in contributions resulted in a significant drop out rate from one or more of the schemes.

Unison was currently balloting its members for industrial action on 30 November 2011. This would affect non-uniformed staff at the Fire Authority if it went ahead but the Business Continuity Management Team were monitoring the situation should the decision be in favour of strike action.

RESOLVED

- (4) that the two consultation processes taking place be noted;**
- (5) that a sub-group be formed, comprising the Chair and Councillors Rigby and Wheeler, supported by the Treasurer, to meet and formulate a response to the consultations on behalf of the Policy and Strategy Committee;**
- (6) that the potential impact of industrial action linked to the two consultation processes be noted.**

15 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining item 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 Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

16 PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated. The Chief Fire Officer updated the meeting on the final outcome relating to the property negotiation.

RESOLVED

- (4) that the final agreement be noted;**
- (5) that a special meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee be convened to discuss the various financial implications of either demolishing the buildings on the Site immediately or on the sale of the Site, and to report the findings to the Fire Authority;**
- (6) that a working party comprising members of the Policy and Strategy Committee, supported by the Treasurer and independent clerical support, be formed to discuss the terms of reference of the independent inquiry and to make recommendations to the Policy and Strategy Committee.**