



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: 22 February 2013

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members the business and actions of the Policy and Strategy Committee meeting of Friday 01 February 2013.

CONTACT OFFICER

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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 01 February 2013 are attached to this report at Appendix A.
- 2.2 The Committee was firstly asked to consider a report which proposed a consultation framework for all future Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service consultations and to seek approval for its adoption by the Fire Authority. It was resolved that the Consultation Framework be adopted and forwarded to the Fire Authority for formal ratification.
- 2.3 An update was also provided to the Committee on the commencement of a Fire and Rescue Service Efficiencies Review. It was resolved:
 - (1) that the Policy and Strategy Committee note the review being carried out by the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor;
 - (2) that a draft response on behalf of the Authority be circulated to members for comment prior to submission.

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

APPENDIX A



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **1 FEBRUARY 2013** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge from 10.00 am to 10.27 am.

Membership

Councillor D Pulk (Chair)
Councillor J Collins
Councillor B Grocock
Councillor E Kerry
Councillor K Rigby
Councillor G Wheeler

Members absent are marked ^

15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

17 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2012, copies of which had been circulated at the meeting, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

18 CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, which presented the Committee with a consultation framework for all future consultations and sought approval for its adoption by the Fire Authority.

The report was introduced by Frank Swann, Chief Fire Officer, who confirmed that a member led task and finish group had been convened to establish a 'Consultation Framework' at the meeting in November 2012. Following this, a draft document had been produced and with the Service due to commence consultation on its next Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) in spring 2013, adoption of the document was sought to ensure compliance and that all expectations were met.

The Committee expressed gratitude to the members of the Working Group and felt that to engage with members of the community effectively, consultation would need to tie in to a range of existing community meetings as opposed to a stand alone consultative approach.

RESOLVED that the Consultation Framework be adopted and forwarded to the Fire Authority for formal ratification.

19 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE EFFICIENCIES REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, which sought to update the Committee on the commencement of a Fire and Rescue Service Efficiencies Review. The report was introduced by Frank Swann, Chief Fire Officer, who reported that the outgoing Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor, Sir Ken Knight, would lead a short review into the operational efficiency of the services delivered by the Fire and Rescue Authorities in England. The review would take place from January to March and would report back to Ministers in spring 2013.

Although not intending to come to a Service in the midlands, Sir Ken Knight would be inviting input from authorities to demonstrate their efficiency savings. Fire Authorities in both Oxfordshire and Hampshire had shared their submissions detailing what the Services had done. It was reported that a similar submission could be arranged from the Authority which would need to be reported by the end of spring, the implications being that the mini-comprehensive spending review, due to be announced in spring, would include a 1 year settlement for 2015/16. The Chief Fire Officer surmised that a demonstration of the efficiencies from the Authority could influence the judgement on the grant settlement for 2015/16.

Although no guidance or relevant terms of reference had been provided with regards to participating in the review, the Committee felt that a submission of relevant bullet points was perhaps the most appropriate response at this stage.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Policy and Strategy Committee note the review being carried out by the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor;**
- (2) that a draft response on behalf of the Authority be circulated to members for comment prior to submission.**