



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES

of meeting of the Authority held on **22 FEBRUARY 2013** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Nottingham from 10.30 am to 1.59 pm.

Membership

Councillor C Barnfather
Councillor S Carroll
Councillor J Collins
Councillor B Cooper
^ Councillor B Cross
Councillor S Fielding
Councillor B Grocock
Councillor J Hemsall
Councillor E Kerry
Councillor A Norris (minutes 40 - 45 inclusive)
Councillor D Pulk
Councillor K Rigby (minutes 40 - 49 inclusive)
Councillor D Smith
Councillor T Spencer
Councillor G Wheeler
Councillor M Wood
Councillor L Yates
Councillor J Zadrozny

Members absent are marked ^

40 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Cross.

41 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

42 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2012, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

43 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reported on the following matters:

- (a) the Chair had attended a Local Government Association meeting in London the previous week, at which Brandon Lewis, the Fire Minister had tabled a letter putting forward proposals that would mean fire and rescue authorities in England could contract out their full range of services to private companies. The Chair had written to some MP's and all City and County Councillors expressing concern about the possibility of privatising front line fire services as he didn't consider this to be in the best interests of public safety;
- (b) congratulations were due to Dave Beardsall, Retained Watch Manager in Charge, who had been awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours List. A letter was to be sent to Mr Beardsall from the Fire Authority, congratulating him on his achievement;
- (c) the Services' Press Officer, Liz Reeson, who had helped promote the Service and secured good press coverage for the Service had moved on and the Chair, on behalf of the Authority wished her well for the future;
- (d) Councillor John Hemsall had decided not to stand for re-election in the forthcoming County elections and this would be his last full Fire Authority meeting. The Chair, on behalf of the Fire Authority, wished him well for the future and thanked him for all his hard work and commitment to the Authority over many years.

44 PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE 2013/14

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Treasurer and the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing members of the Fire Authority's obligations under the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance and seeking the approval of members to the proposed capital plans, prudential limits and monitoring processes set out in the report.

RESOLVED that the following Prudential Limits for 2013/14 be approved:

Estimate of Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream	5.5%
Estimate of the Incremental Impact of the New Capital Investment Decisions on the Council Tax (Band D)	-£1.31
Estimate of Total Capital Expenditure to be Incurred	£5,762,000
Estimate of Capital Financing Requirement	£26,032,000
Operational Boundary	£27,233,000
Authorised Limit	£29,956,000
Upper limit for fixed rate interest exposures	100%
Upper limit for variable rate interest exposures	30%

Loan Maturity:	Limits:
Under 12 months	Upper 20% Lower 0%
12 months to 5 years	Upper 30% Lower 0%
5 years to 10 years	Upper 75% Lower 0%
Over 10 years	Upper 100% Lower 0%
Over 20 years	Upper 100% Lower 30%
Upper Limit for Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than 364 Days	£2,000,000

45 BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2013/2014 TO 202015/2016 AND OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TAX

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, presenting the Fire Authority with proposals for revenue and capital budgets for 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 to allow members to determine the level of council tax for 2013/2014.

The Strategic Director of Finance and Resources presented the report and advised members that the report had been updated since it had been approved by the Finance and Resources Committee on 11 January 2013, to take into account the final figures for grant settlement which had not been received until 4 February 2013.

The Chair, the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee and Councillor Wheeler all thanked officers in the Finance Team for their hard work in producing such a comprehensive report.

The Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee proposed that a 1.9% increase in council tax as set out in Appendix B of the report be adopted for the levy of precept and Council Tax for 2013/14. This was seconded by the Vice Chair. When put to the vote, this proposal was defeated by 9 votes to 8. Councillors requested that their votes be recorded. Councillors Carroll, Collins, Fielding, Grocock, Norris, Pulk, Smith and Wood voted in favour of the proposal and Councillors Barnfather, Cooper, Hemsall, Kerry, Rigby, Spencer, Wheeler, Yates and Zadrozny voted against the proposal.

Councillor Kerry proposed that a 0% increase in council tax as set out in Appendix C of the report be adopted for the levy of precept and Council tax for 2013/2014. This was seconded by Councillor Wheeler. The proposal was voted on and carried by 9 votes to 8. Councillors requested that their votes be recorded. Councillors Barnfather, Cooper, Hemsall, Kerry, Rigby, Spencer, Wheeler, Yates and Zadrozny voted in favour of the proposal and Councillors Carroll, Collins, Fielding, Grocock, Norris, Pulk, Smith and Wood voted against the proposal.

RESOLVED

- (1) that a 0% increase in council tax and precept as set out in Appendix C of the report be agreed;**
- (2) that a level of council tax of between 0% and 1.9% be set as an indicator of the level of council tax increase for 2014/2015 to enable further budget planning to take place;**

- (3) the payment of Members Allowances for 2013/2014 be approved in accordance with the existing published scheme.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12.50 pm until 1.10 pm. Councillor Norris left the meeting at this point.

46 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2013/14

Consideration was given to the report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated informing the meeting of the Fire Authority's Treasury Management Strategy for 2013/14 and seeking approval of the Fire Authority's Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2013/14.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14 as set out in the report be noted;**
- (2) that the Minimum Revenue Provision policy 2013/14 be approved.**

47 WORKING BALANCES AND REVIEW OF EARMARKED RESERVES

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, seeking the approval of the Fire Authority to the levels of working balances sufficient to meet the needs of the Authority during the 2013/2014 financial year and beyond and seeking the approval of the Authority to the current earmarked reserves and to an additional contribution to the earmarked reserves in the 2012/2013 financial year.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the results of the review of risks shown at Appendix A of the report be noted;**
- (2) that the proposed minimum level of balances of £3.4m be approved;**
- (3) that the change of use of the earmarked reserve from Arson Task Force to Fire Investigation, as detailed in paragraph 2.20 of the report be approved;**
- (4) that the earmarked reserves as shown in Appendix C be approved;**
- (5) that the addition of a further £500,000 to the Fire Control Transition earmarked reserve in this financial year as detailed in paragraph 2.21 of the report be approved.**

48 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY UPDATE 2012

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, updating the Fire Authority on the operational activity levels during the calendar year 2012.

The Chair thanked the Chief Fire Officer for the very comprehensive report.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the contents of the report and the updated operational activity levels for 2012 be noted;
- (2) that the Chief Fire Officer be tasked with further detailed analysis so that a report could be brought to a future meeting detailing any recommendations.

49 CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, presenting to the Fire Authority a consultation framework for all future Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service consultations and to seek adoption of the framework by the Authority. The report was presented by the Chief Fire Officer who explained to the meeting that the Policy and Strategy Committee at its meeting on 2 November 2012 had established a member led task and finish group to establish a consultation framework within which Officers could operate. The task and finish group had looked at the impact of the National Framework on Consultation and had produced a draft document entitled 'the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority Consultation Framework' which was appended to the report.

The Vice Chair and Councillor Wood both thanked Craig Parkin, Area Manager Corporate Support, for his input in the drafting of the framework document and the Chair thanked the members of the task and finish group for their work in producing the document.

RESOLVED that the framework be adopted as the basis for all future Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service consultations.

Councillor Rigby left the meeting at this point.

50 COMMITTEE OUTCOMES FOR NOTING

Consideration was given to reports of the Chairs of the following committees, copies of which, including minutes of those meetings, had been circulated:

- (a) Policy and Strategy Committee, 1 February 2013;
- (b) Performance Monitoring Committee, 18 January 2013;
- (c) Finance and Resources Committee, 11 January 2013;
- (d) Community Safety Committee, 18 January 2013;
- (e) Human Resources Committee, 25 January 2013.

Councillor Kerry asked when he would get a response to his query concerning Target Response Vehicles referred to at minute 21 of the Finance and Resources Committee minutes dated 11 January 2013. The Chief Fire Officer apologised for the delay and advised Councillor Kerry that a report had been drafted and would be presented to the next meeting of the Community Safety Committee.

RESOLVED that the reports and the business undertaken by the Committees be noted.

50 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.

51 PROPERTY UPDATE – CENTRAL FIRE STATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, updating the meeting on the current position with regard to Central Fire Station.

The meeting was adjourned for five minutes to enable members to read the report.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted