



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

Date: 28 February 2014

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members the business and actions of the Policy and Strategy Committee meeting of Friday 31 January 2014.

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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 31 January 2014 are attached to this report at Appendix A.
- 2.2 The Committee was firstly asked to consider a report which recommended a review of the current arrangements regarding indemnities for Members and Officers. It was resolved to task the Service's Risk Manager with undertaking a review of the current policy and bring a report to the next meeting of the Committee in April 2014
- 2.3 A further report presented options to Members regarding the methodology applied to the review of Principal Officer pay. It was resolved to give consideration to the median average of the Family Group when determining Principal Officer salary levels; to retain the current bi-annual timing of the review; and not to use external consultants to benchmark salary data.
- 2.4 In respect of the final items on the agenda, the Committee was asked to consider exclusion of the public from the meeting in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1992. This was agreed and consideration was given to the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2013 and a report regarding loss of protected pension age.

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



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY - POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES of the meeting held at Fire and Rescue Services HQ, Bestwood
Lodge, Arnold Nottingham NG5 8PD on 31 January 2014 from 10.04 am - 12.10
pm**

	Councillor Darrell Pulk	(Chair)
^	Councillor Jon Collins	
	Councillor Brian Grocock	
	Councillor Chris Barnfather	
^	Councillor Michael Payne	
	Councillor Gordon Wheeler	
	Councillor Malcolm Wood	(as substitute for Councillor Jon Collins)
	Councillor John Wilmott	(as substitute for Councillor Michael Payne)

Members absent are marked ^

21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Jon Collins.
Councillor Michael Payne.

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

With the exception of the Chief Fire Officer, the other Principal Officers present declared an interest in agenda item 5, Review of Indemnities for Members and Officers, and left the room during consideration of this item.

23 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2013 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

24 REVIEW OF INDEMNITIES FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Frank Swann, the Chief Fire Officer presented his report recommending a review of the current arrangements regarding indemnities for Members and Officers. The current policy was drafted in 2005 and has only been applied once. Questions have now arisen in relation to the Policy and it is thought that further clarification would be beneficial to provide clarity.

RESOLVED to task the Service's Risk Manager with undertaking a review of the current policy and bring a report to the next meeting of this Committee on 25 April 2014.

With the exception of the Chief Fire Officer, the Principal Officers left the meeting prior to consideration of the next item.

25 PRINCIPAL OFFICER PAY REVIEW

Peter Hurford, the Treasurer, presented the joint report of himself and the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority setting out options regarding the methodology applied to the review of Principal Officer pay. The Treasurer also explained to Members that they had the option of being bound by the outcome or utilising it as guidance.

Following discussion, Members agreed that the fairest comparator was the Family Group, a relatively large group made up of 18 services sharing factors such as population size, deprivation, risk area and total fire calls. If the median average were to be applied this would be comparable with the current Chief Fire Officer salary in Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service from January 2014. On this basis, this could be considered as a fair comparator group as a guide for setting salary levels for Principal Officers in the future.

RESOLVED

- (1) to give consideration to the median average of the Family Group when determining Principal Officer salary levels;**
- (2) to retain the current bi-annual timing of the review;**
- (3) not to use external consultants to benchmark salary data.**

26 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Committee decided to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the remaining agenda items 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.

The Chair then adjourned the meeting pending the arrival of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority as his input was required in relation to the exempt items (10.55 am). The Clerk arrived and the Meeting reconvened at 11.12 am.

27 EXEMPT MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2013 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

28 LOSS OF PROTECTED PENSION AGE

The Chief Fire Officer presented his report on the loss of protected pension age and the effect of it in certain circumstances.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations in the report subject to the amendments agreed by the Committee, as recorded in a separate exempt minute.