



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Report of the Chair of the Community Safety Committee

Date: 23 May 2014

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members on the business and actions of the Community Safety Committee meeting of Friday 28 March 2014.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name : Craig Parkin
Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Tel : (0115) 967 0880

Email : craig.parkin@notts-fire.gov.uk

Media Enquiries Contact : Bridget Aherne
(0115) 967 0880 bridget.aherne@notts-fire.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND

As part of the revised Governance arrangements the Authority has delegated key responsibilities for Community Safety to the Community Safety Committee. As part of those delegated responsibilities the Chair of the Community Safety Committee and the Management lead report to the Authority on its business and actions as agreed at Fire and Rescue Authority meeting 1 June 2007.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The minutes of the Community Safety Committee held on Friday 28 March 2014 are attached to this report at Appendix A. The following summarises the main points discussed at the meeting.
- 2.2 The Committee considered a report providing Members with an introduction to a nationally recognised competency framework which the Service has developed for members of staff delivering business support and regulation, which will ensure a consistent service delivery. It was resolved to note the contents of the report and endorse the adoption of the Competency Framework for Business Fire Safety Regulators.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications were considered as part of the original reports submitted to the Community Safety 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 Community Safety 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 from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional risk management issues arising from this report other than those specifically reported to the Committee as part of the reports under consideration.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

Councillor Colleen Harwood
CHAIR OF COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY -
COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES of the meeting held at Fire and Rescue Services HQ, Bestwood
Lodge, Arnold Nottingham NG5 8PD on 28 March 2014 from 10.01 am - 10.16
am**

Councillor Colleen Harwood (Chair)
Councillor Chris Barnfather
^ Councillor Brian Grocock
Councillor Ken Rigby
Councillor David Smith (substitute for Councillor Brian Grocock)
Councillor John Wilmott

Members absent are marked ^

Councillor Gordon Wheeler – present as an observer

17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Brian Grocock – other Council business

18 DECLARATIONS ON INTERESTS

None

19 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2014 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

**20 COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK FOR BUSINESS FIRE SAFETY
REGULATORS**

Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Craig Parkin introduced the Chief Fire Officers' report providing members with an introduction to a Competency Framework for Business Safety Regulators. The main points drawn to the attention of the members were:

- (a) Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) has an established fire protection department dedicated to the enforcement of fire safety in non-domestic premises which is a statutory requirement under the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order (RRO) 2005;
- (b) fire and rescue services nationally have been criticised by businesses due to their lack of consistency in providing advice when completing their obligation under the RRO and in their handling of enforcement action;
- (c) in tackling this problem, NFRS has developed a nationally recognised competency framework for members of staff delivering business support and regulation which will ensure a consistent service delivery;

- (d) the primary purpose of the framework is to ensure that Business Fire Safety Regulators have the necessary skills to be competent and protects the regulatory organisation by ensuring that all regulators are delivering the most up to date advice and information;
- (e) although there are three defined levels of competence for regulators, NFRS is currently working towards all of its fire safety officers to be qualified to Fire Safety Inspectors which means they can complete inspections of all regulated premises, including high risk sites or those incorporating fire engineering principles;
- (f) new members of staff will require a full suite of training courses over an 18-24 month period and existing members of staff will have their existing qualifications accredited through an approved body;
- (g) there are 19 existing 'qualified' officers that require conversion to the new framework and a trial is taking place at a cost of £360 per person, which if successful will cost a total of £6,840 for all 19 members.

Following questions from the Committee, the following information was provided:

- (h) the onus is on businesses to seek responsible fire safety advisors because under the new regulations, as well taking enforcement action against the business, NFRS can also take action against advisors;
- (i) NFRS would be susceptible to criticism if serious incidents occur on business premises where NFRS has agreed to inspect and fails to do so. NFRS will not inspect every business premises but will look at where there are trends in analysing risk. NFRS is looking at working jointly with other authorities, such as Trading Standards in effectively managing events, which for example include the use of fireworks.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report and endorse the adoption of the Competency Framework for Business Fire Safety Regulators.