

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority

COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 15 December 2017

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members the business and actions of the Fire Authority committee meetings which took place in October/November 2017.

CONTACT OFFICER

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1. BACKGROUND

As part of the revised governance arrangements the Authority has delegated key responsibilities to specific committees of the Authority. As part of those delegated responsibilities, the chairs of committees and the management leads report to the Authority on the business and actions as agreed at Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on 1 June 2007.

2. REPORT

The minutes of the following meetings are attached at Appendix A for the information of all Fire Authority members:

Community Safety Committee 06 October 2017
Finance and Resources Committee 13 October 2017
Human Resources Committee 20 October 2017
Policy and Strategy Committee 10 November 2017

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications were considered as part of the original reports submitted to the committees.

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 committees.

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 the committee structure 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. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

There are no collaboration implications arising from this report, as the report seeks to provide Members with an update on the business and actions of Fire Authority committee meetings which have taken place in the last quarter.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report.

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

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



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

MINUTES of the meeting held at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 8PD on 6 October 2017 from 10.02 am - 11.07 am

Membership

Present
Councillor Eunice Campbell (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Brown
Councillor Patience Uloma Ifediora
Councillor Parry Tsimbiridis

Absent
Councillor Jason Zadronzny
Councillor Patience Uloma Ifediora

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Wayne Bowcock - Deputy Chief Fire Officer, NFRS

Kate Morris - Governance Officer
Dan Quinn - Area Manager, NFRS

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Jonathan Wheeler

None

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

12 MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 30 June 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

13 SERVICE DELIVERY PERFORMANCE

Dan Quinn, Area Manager at NFRS provided Members with an update on the performance of the Service Delivery Directorate.

The following points were highlighted:

Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority - Community Safety - 6.10.17

- (a) there have been 0 fire fatalities in this period;
- (b) Warsop achieved 97.3% Retained Duty System (RDS) availability, 7 out of 16 sections performed above 90%;
- (c) exercise planning is currently focusing on high-rise fires and basement fires.
 Two successful exercises have been run with North and South Districts putting in significant resources;
- (d) 25 RDS trainee firefighters started training, all are due to complete training in November 2017;

Following questions from Members, further information was provided:

- (e) there has been a struggle to recruit and retain RDS staff in the Misterton and Collingham areas, however there are currently 14 interested candidates. A different approach was taken in this area, the Fire Service wrote directly to the community and focused on contacting those who had previously shown an interest;
- (f) the Service is looking at introducing more flexible and more innovative ways to retain RDS Staff such as shorter or more flexible contracts;
- (g) the service is looking at working with RAF bases and Army Bases, and recruiting service personnel as they leave the military. Student organisations are also being approached to promote the Fire Service;
- (h) neighbourhood action teams with Councils can work to promote the Fire Service particularly to BME residents;

RESOLVED to note the contents of the Service Delivery Performance Report.

14 RISK REVIEW 2017

Wayne Bowcock, Deputy Chief Fire Officer at NFRS updated the Members on the review of new and existing site specific information on operational risks within Nottinghamshire.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) Following the Grenfell Tower fire in London NFRS established a Serious Event Review Group (SERG) that requested all information on high-rise buildings is reviewed and, where necessary, refreshed;
- (b) As a result of this review the Operational Assurance team are reviewing all information held on category 3 and category 4 buildings and work to identify any risks not already recorded as Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) has begun. This work is considered a Service priority;

Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority - Community Safety - 6.10.17

(c) The reviewed and updated risk information will be accessible from mobile data terminals that are carried by crews to all incidents;

Following questions from Members, further information was provided:

- (d) There are certain buildings that crews are called out to more often than others. Buildings like the Victoria Centre flats are regularly attended and crews will do hazard spotting at the same time as attending an incident. This hazard spotting work is then fed back after the incident;
- (e) Crews likely to attend incidents at category 4 buildings, such as Victoria Centre, perform annual familiarisation visits and conduct their own risk assessments and service exercises help crews to become familiar with buildings.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report

15 GRENFELL TOWER FIRE

Wayne Bowcock, Deputy Chief Fire Officer at NFRS updated members on the work that has been carried out by the Service following the tragic fire at the Grenfell Tower Block, North Kensington, London.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) It is believed that this tragic incident will result in wide reaching legislative changes;
- (b) Nationally there have been 400 buildings identified with similar aluminium composite materials cladding as that on Grenfell Tower block. Three of these buildings are within Nottinghamshire;
- (c) As a consequence of the Grenfell Tower fire NFRS will have carried out over 60 audits of tall building with the majority being broadly complaint with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO);
- (d) The NFCC sends out daily situation reports which include details of audits completed nationally. The Serious Event Review Group acts as a centralised coordination point to ensure all information received is collated and all responses to requests for information are responded to in a timely manner;
- (e) NFRS is the enforcing authority for the RRO and it is the responsibility of the designated Responsible Officer (RO) to ensure compliance with the RRO. The RO is any person having control to some extent or the owner of tall residential buildings;
- (f) NFRS hosted a strategic briefing for housing providers, NHS, Clinical Commissioning groups, education providers and many other organisations with a view to ensuring the same consistent messages are being delivered across the county;

Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority - Community Safety - 6.10.17

- (g) The Stay Put policy has received national attention and will be reviewed nationally. NFRS supports the statement issued by the NFCC stating that on the majority of occasions where there is a high rise fire staying put is the right thing to do. However, in the case where smoke is entering a flat, or there is fire in a flat then the resident would be advised to evacuate;
- (h) Control room staff have been given additional training in helping residents interpret the Stay Put policy safely;
- (i) There will be a number of reports coming to this Board updating Members on the progress of the review and enquiry;

Following questions from Members, further information was highlighted:

- (j) The NFCC recently issued a Sprinkler position statement which supports the use of sprinklers in all communal areas, and preferably in individual flats, of high rise buildings. NFRS fully supports this statement;
- (k) There are still concerns with regards to the private rented housing sector and some landlords willingness to assess and comply with fire safety regulations. Nottingham City Council is looking to a selective licensing scheme for landlords which is working towards improving this situation;
- Some social housing providers require all electrical equipment to be PAT tested within its properties, however this requirement is not universal across all providers and landlords;

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.



FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held at Fire and Rescue Services HQ, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold Nottingham NG5 8PD on 13 October 2017 from 10.07 am - 11.07 am

Membership

Present Absent

Councillor Malcolm Wood (Chair) Councillor Mike Quigley MBE

Councillor John Clarke Councillor Brian Grocock

Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

John Buckley - Chief Fire Officer

Theresa Channell - Interim Treasurer to the Authority

Becky Smeathers - Head of Finance

Ian Pritchard - Head of Procurement and Resources

Catherine Ziane-Pryor - Governance Officer

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

12 <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u>

None.

13 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2017 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

14 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING: 01 APRIL - 31 AUGUST 2017

Becky Smeathers, Head of Finance, presented the report of the Chief Fire Officer which informs the Committee of the financial performance of the Service from the start of the 2017/18 financial year until 31 August 2017, against the forecast outturn, identifying and explaining variances.

Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority - Finance and Resources - 13.10.17

The following forecast variances were identified with further details and budget balancing solutions identified within the report:

Wholetime pay (excluding overtime) overspend - £282,000 Control Pay overspend - £73,000 Firefighter Pensions overspend - £465.000 **Business Rates** overspend - £231,000 - £174,000 Capital Finance Budgets (interest charges) - underspend Rent of Premises - underspend - £73,000

It is noted that funds to balance the budgets will be sought from earmarked reserves although some additional income and unexpected savings have occurred.

Member's questions were responded to as follows:

- (a) an additional £600,000 is required to fund the deficit identified in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) following its tri-annual actuarial valuation. This was paid in one lump sum using internal borrowing rather than over the 3 years permitted in order to save approximately £33,000 in interest;
- (b) since pension administration has been transferred to Leicestershire County Council, a further 5 individual historic errors have been identified going as far back as the 1970's. Assurance has been provided that errors did not relate to individual pension calculations but that costs should have been met by the Authority rather than the Pension Fund. It remains unclear if any further, broader errors may have been made and are yet to be identified. The errors found in the scheme result in an additional annual cost of £45,000, so maintaining a pension reserve of £309,000 is necessary;
- (c) the Pensions Regulator is aware of the historic issues with the Firefighter's Pension scheme and is encouraging all Boards nationally to undertake data audits. For the Nottinghamshire scheme this has already been done, but there is no room for complacency and a further review will take place next year;
- (d) a 1% pay rise has been presumed, but if 2% is announced, this will result in an additional cost of £300,000 per annum;
- (e) with regard to the variables which have occurred, the Medium-Term Financial plan won't be reviewed as the £45,000 pension short-fall can be met from reserves for 2017/18 and will be taken into account in future budgets;
- (f) the Service submitted an appeal against the £73,000 increase in business rates, but this was refused. It is noted that business rates have increase nationally.

Members expressed great concern at the historic pension mistakes and sought reassurance that the resulting financial pressures would not impact on current jobs and errors would be remedied as soon as possible.

RESOLVED to note the report.

15 PRUDENTIAL CODE MONITORING: 01 JUNE - 31 AUGUST 2017

Theresa Channell, Interim Treasurer to the Authority, presented the report which informs the Committee of performance against the prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management for the period between 1 June and 31 August 2017, for which no concerns have been raised.

With regard to Treasury Management Indicators, the interest earnings budget has been revised downwards from £66,000 to £53,000 to reflect the lower than anticipated interest rates.

It is predicted that interest charges on loans and the amount of debt will also be lower than predicted and no further long-term maturity loans have been acquired so far this year. As interest rates have been low, borrowing has been limited to short-term arrangements.

RESOLVED to note the report.

16 EXTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT

John Buckley, Chief Fire Officer, presented the report which informs the Committee that following a tender exercise in line with the Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, Ernst and Young LLP has been appointed as External Auditors to the Authority.

RESOLVED to note the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the Authority's auditors from 2018/19 for five years.

17 TREASURY CONSULTANCY SERVICES CONTRACT RENEWAL

Becky Smeathers, Head of Finance, presented the report which informs the Committee that the contract for Treasury Consultancy Services, currently with Capita Treasury Solutions, has been extended for a year until the end of October 2018, to enable the Service to undertake a tender exercise.

RESOLVED to note the report.

18 <u>ESTATES MANAGER POST AND REORGANISATION OF</u> PROCUREMENT AND RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Ian Pritchard, Head of Procurement and Resources, presented the report of the Chief Fire Officer, which updates the Committee on the reorganisation of the Procurement and Resources Department and the savings made to date.

The following points were highlighted and responses given to Members' questions:

(a) the post of Estates Officer has been changed to Estates Manager with a grade increase from 6 to 9 (funded from non-pay budget) and additional responsibilities including project management work which previously was contracted out;

Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority - Finance and Resources - 13.10.17

- (b) the cost of post upgrades is an additional £29,000 per year, however £218,700 annual budget saving are predicted as a result of the additional responsibilities and activity of the new posts;
- (c) comprehensive procurement and contract management procedures are now established;
- (d) areas of savings include:

blue light fitting to officers' cars by a local contractor (£33,000 pa); early tendering of the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (£30,000 pa); re-tender of insurance cover (£97,000 pa); Equipment savings (£15,000 pa); Collaborative waste management with the Police (£1,200 pa);

- (e) the mind set of staff has been altered to identify the need, then consider what could be suitable to fulfil that need and the value for money provided. The final object can be different to that initially presumed;
- (f) there may be as much as a 50% reduction on the budgeted fleet order of £850,000, due to reconsideration of requirements, which could result in a substantial Capital Budget underspend and the possibility of selling vehicles sooner than previously but at the price paid;

The Committee welcomed the progress and achievement s to date.

RESOLVED to note the report.

19 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public 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 outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

20 HUCKNALL AMBULANCE STATION COLLABORATION

lan Pritchard, Head of Procurement and Resources, presented the report of the Chief Fire Officer.

The Committee requested speedier progress.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendation as set out in the report.



HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held at Fire and Rescue Services HQ, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold Nottingham NG5 8PD on 20 October 2017 from 10.00 am - 11.03 am

Membership

Present Absent

Councillor John Clarke (Chair) Councillor John Longdon

Councillor Liaqat Ali

Councillor Vaughan Hopewell

Councillor Jackie Morris

Councillor Andrew Brown (Substitute for Councillor John Longdon)

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Councillor Brian Grocock

Wayne Bowcock - Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Tracy Crump - Head of People and Organisational Development

Catherine Ziane-Pryor - Governance Officer

7 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor John Longdon - personal

8 <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u>

None.

9 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2017 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

10 HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Tracy Crump, Head of People and Organisational Development, presented the report of the Chief Fire Officer which updates the Committee on the key Human Resources metrics for Quarter 2, the period 1 July-30 September 2017.

Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority - Human Resources - 20.10.17 The report provides statistical detail on sickness absence by group (whole-time and Control, Non-uniformed, and retained), including reasons for absence, disciplinary and grievances, and staffing numbers, with more detailed information contained within the appendices.

The 32.7% increase in sickness absence is a significant increase in full time employee sickness during Quarter 2, but it should be noted that this is partly due to the comparison against Quarter 1 when sickness levels were unusually low.

Wayne Bowcock, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, assured the Committee that NFRS has gold standard welfare arrangements and a first class Occupational Health Service, added to which, the Firefighters' Charity also offers top quality respite services.

It is noted that the total NFRS employee absence remains below the industry average.

RESOLVED to endorse the report.

11 UPDATE ON THE PEOPLE STRATEGY

Wayne Bowcock, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, presented the report which updates the Committee with details of the progress and activities undertaken since the Strategy was launched in April 2017.

Areas of work referred to include:

- The Safe and Well Programme;
- Emergency First Responder Trial;
- o Sustainability Strategy and consulting on alternative crewing proposals;
- o ICT Department changes to meet the demands of the Emergency Service Network;
- Leadership Strategy, including involvement with the 'Aspiring Leaders Programme';
- o Open University Distance Learning Programme:
- 'Skills for Justice' accreditation;
- Alignment of operational training to the 'National Operational Competence Framework';
- Training for the new Drager Breathing Apparatus;
- o Rolling out a yearlong programme on 'Compartmental Fire Behaviour Training';
- Sharing specific resources and collaborating in set areas with Derbyshire and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Services;
- Establishing an apprenticeship scheme
- Nurturing a positive workplace and culture with consultation and feedback;
- o Implementing the recommendations of Bath University's operational fitness targets:
- Considering how to support the needs of an older workforce, including menopausal women;
- Targeted promotion of the Service to under-represented communities in preparation for whole-time firefighter recruitment in 2018.

Committee members' questions were responded to as follows:

(a) the First Responder pilot has concluded due to the withdrawal of voluntary firefighter participation pending the outcome of national pay negotiations. NFRS hasn't had access to any ambulance performance statistics to determine if loss of life may have been influenced;

Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority - Human Resources - 20.10.17

- (b) when responding to support the Ambulance Service, Firefighters were covered by NFRS insurance as they were acting as agents of the Service and therefore any issues would be the responsibility of NFRS;
- (c) with regard to recruitment, email addresses are collected from interested parties at individual promotion events and these can be tracked through the application and appointment processes to ascertain which type of events attracted the most applications from under-represented groups.

The Committee welcomed staff engagement on the Sustainability Strategy and requested that members are able to attend.

RESOLVED

- (1) to note the report;
- (2) for the Deputy Chief Fire Officer to arrange for members of the Committee to be informed of, and invited to attend, staff consultation events regarding the Sustainability Strategy.

12 UPDATE ON APPRENTICESHIPS

Wayne Bowcock, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, presented the report of the Chief Fire Officer which informs the Committee of the apprenticeship levy and establishment of the Service's apprenticeship schemes. Full details of the levy, access to the levy and the proposed apprenticeship scheme are included within the report.

It is anticipated that the 2.3% apprenticeship levy on payroll will cost the Service approximately £114,000 per year. To access the levy funds, training can be provided to full-time apprentices so the Service is to establish apprenticeship roles as Fire Fighter, Business Support and Community Safety Officers.

Members of the Committee welcomed the establishment of apprenticeships within the Service.

RESOLVED to note the report.

13 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public 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 outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

14 RETAINED SUPPORT STRUCTURE

Wayne Bowcock, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, presented the report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations as set out in the report.



POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held at Fire and Rescue Services HQ, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold Nottingham NG5 8PD on 10 November 2017 from 10.00 am - 10.42 am

Membership

Present Absent

Councillor Andrew Brown
Councillor Michael Payne
Councillor Sybil Fielding

Councillor Jonathan Wheeler Councillor Malcolm Wood

Councillor Liaqat Ali (Substitute for Councillor Brian Grocock)
Councillor Parry Tsimbiridis (Substitute for Councillor Sybil Fielding)

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

John Buckley - Chief Fire Officer

Malcolm Townroe - Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority

Becky Smeathers - Head of Finance Catherine Ziane-Pryor - Governance Officer

8 CHAIR OF THE MEETING

RESOLVED for Councillor Michael Payne to Chair the meeting in the absence of Councillor Brian Grocock.

9 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Brian Grocock – personal Councillor Sybil Fielding – personal

10 <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u>

John Buckley, Chief Fire Officer, declared an interest in Agenda item 4, 'Principal Officer Pay Review' (minute 12) in that it affected him directly, and informed the Committee that he would withdraw from the meeting prior to, and for the duration of that item.

Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority - Policy & Strategy - 10.11.17

11 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2017 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair presiding at the meeting.

12 PRINCIPAL OFFICER PAY REVIEW

Prior to the Committee's consideration of this item, John Buckley, the Chief Fire Officer, withdrew from the meeting, having declared an interest under minute 10. He did not return to the room until the item had concluded.

Malcolm Townroe, Clerk to the Authority, presented the joint report of the Clerk and Treasurer, informing the Committee of the outcomes of the Principal Officer Pay review which is required to be undertaken biennially.

The report informs the Committee that Chief Fire Officer Pay is set by a benchmarking exercise against other similar Fire and Rescue Authorities. Other Principal Officer Pay is calculated as a percentage of that total.

The report proposes that the current rate of pay is appropriate and so should not be altered.

Members of the Committee agreed with the findings of the report and commented that compared to some other Local Authority pay levels, the rate is appropriate.

It is noted that national pay awards are considered separately from this issue.

RESOLVED to submit a recommendation to the full Fire Authority that the current Principal Officer pay levels are appropriate and should be implemented from 1 January 2018.

13 EMERGENCY SERVICES NETWORK (ESN) UPDATE

Chief Fire Officer John Buckley, presented the report which updates the Committee on the progress of Emergency Services Network (ESN) since the last update in November 2016.

The aim of ESN is that emergency services collaborate to procure a mutually efficient, effective, robust and secure shared communications package with shared procurement, training and operational benefits and savings.

Central Government has now initiated a full national review of the ESN Business Case, including the national transition plan, to ensure that the scheme can be delivered to a realistic time scale and that suppliers are able to provide the technology required. This may result in changes to the document to which NFRS originally committed. This in turn is likely to have timescale and financial implications for the Regional Board and NFRS and results in uncertainty as to the relevance of work already undertaken. To date NFRS has budgeted £200,000 for ESN work and employed 3 full time equivalent staff specifically to work towards achieving the initial one year implementation target. Whilst Central Government has agreed to financially contribute to previous additional work, any further contribution is uncertain and therefore, to retain the specialist staff during the review period and once the revised document is released, the budget will need to be reviewed.

Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority - Policy & Strategy - 10.11.17

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report and agree to receive further updates as the project develops.

14 TRI-SERVICE CONTROL UPDATE

John Buckley, Chief Fire Officer, presented the report which updates the Committee on the progress in implementing the Tri-Service Control Programme since the last update in April 2017, and sets out how the next phase will be implemented.

Working across three services has, at times, proved a little dis-jointed but the programme is progressing well and the system is stable.

Vulnerabilities have been identified in NFRS systems which are being addressed. Progress across the three services is pleasing and initial concerns regarding some suppliers have been allayed. Additional funding requests are not anticipated.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report and the progress made with the Tri-Service Control Programme.

15 COLLABORATION UPDATE

John Buckley, Chief Fire Officer, presented the report which provides an update on collaboration progress with Nottinghamshire Police and current activity relating to East Midlands Ambulance Service, including suggestions for the potential collaboration around corporate communications, transport, and human resources.

Areas identified for collaboration include:

- Estates:
- Learning and Development;
- Organisational Performance;
- Prevention Activities;
- o Emergency Planning and Resilience

Further meetings are to take place to ensure a greater understanding of how each other work, including the existing Police collaboration in some areas between different forces.

It is believed that formal agreements could soon be possible, particularly with regard to estate sharing with EMAS at Hucknall on-call site (which is progressing well), facilities maintenance, and potentially sharing training resources with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service at Ripley, although discussions are still at an early stage.

Although there are initial costs involved in working towards collaboration, the longer-term savings will far outstrip the initial costs.

Councillors welcomed the collaborative approach between services and suggested that informal discussions also take place between elected members of the respective areas.

RESOLVED to note the report.

16 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority - Policy & Strategy - 10.11.17

RESOLVED to exclude the public 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 outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

17 RESILIENCE ARRANGEMENTS UPDATE

John Buckley, Chief Fire Officer, presented the report which informs the Committee on the current resilience arrangements.

RESOLVED to note the report.