



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Report of the Chair of the
Finance and Resources Committee

Date: 23 May 2014

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members on the business and actions of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting of Friday 04 April 2014.

CONTACT OFFICER

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1. BACKGROUND

As part of the revised Governance arrangements the Authority has delegated key responsibilities for Finance and Resources to the Finance and Resources Committee. As part of those delegated responsibilities, the Chair of the Finance and Resources 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 Finance and Resources Committee held on Friday 04 April 2014 are attached to this report at Appendix A. The following summarises the main points of the papers discussed at the meeting.
- 2.2 The Committee was firstly asked to consider a report regarding the capital programme progress in the year 2013/14, and analysing the significant variances against the original programme. In addition to noting the report, it was resolved to request the Chief Fire Officer arrange a property tour for Committee members, to improve their understanding of the property portfolio and also to request that the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources submit a revised Sustainable Capital Programme to a future Committee meeting.
- 2.3 Following on from this, consideration was given to a report which set out the financial performance of the Service in the year 2013/14 and analysing significant variations against the original budget. The report was noted and the Committee also resolved to request the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources provide a brief training session on Service insurance issues at the rising of the Committee's next meeting.
- 2.4 A further monitoring report was also presented to the Committee by the Treasurer, informing Members of performance to the end of February 2014 relating to the prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management. It was resolved that the report be noted.
- 2.5 Progress of various projects across the Service was the focus of another report to the Committee. This included updates on the construction of the new Retford fire station, a re-assessment of the Service's ICT Strategy to prioritise projects moving forward and an update on the delivery of new equipment/appliances to the Service. It was resolved that the report be noted.
- 2.6 Consideration was also given to a report outlining the proposed programme for achieving and demonstrating Value for Money in 2014/15 and to report progress against the Value for Money Programme in 2013/14. The contents of the report were noted.

- 2.7 The Committee was finally in receipt of a report which provided details of the internal audit work undertaken in relation to Cardiff Checks and it was highlighted to Members that the checks did not identify any specific issues. It was therefore resolved that the report be noted.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

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 Finance and Resources 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

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 and the business undertaken by the Finance and Resources Committee.

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

None.

Councillor Malcolm Wood
CHAIR OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

APPENDIX A



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY - FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**MINUTES of the meeting held at Fire and Rescue Services HQ, Bestwood Lodge,
Arnold Nottingham NG5 8PD on 4 April 2014 from 10.00 am to 11.16 am**

- ✓ Councillor Malcolm Wood (Chair)
- Councillor Chris Barnfather
- ✓ Councillor John Clarke
- ✓ Councillor Jon Collins
- ✓ Councillor Gordon Wheeler

✓ indicates present at meeting

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Neil Timms	Strategic Director of Finance and Resources
Peter Hurford	Treasurer to the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority
Noel McMenamin	Constitutional Services, Nottingham City Council

27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

29 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2014 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

30 CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 28 FEBRUARY 2014

Neil Timms, the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, presented the Chief Fire Officer's report on Capital Programme progress in the year 2013/14, and analysing the significant variances against the original programme.

The capital budget monitoring statement is showing an underspend to date of £5,794,000 against the budget for the year of £8,339,000. Mr Timms reported that that Transport and Information and Communications Technology budgets were mostly on track, The main reason for the underspend lies with the Property portfolio, particularly in finalising the joint

Central Fire Station and City Council Emergency Planning Hub. Mr Timms undertook to submit a revised capital programme to a future meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) to note the content of the report;**
- (2) to request the Chief Fire Officer to arrange a property tour for Committee members, to improve their understanding of the property portfolio;**
- (3) to request the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources to submit a revised Sustainable Capital Programme to a future Committee meeting.**

31 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING TO 28 FEBRUARY 2014

Neil Timms, the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, presented the Chief Fire Officer's report setting out the financial performance of the Service in the year 2013/14 and analysing significant variations against the original budget.

The revenue budget monitoring statement for February 2014 is showing an underspend to date of £222,000 against a budget for the year of £43,899,000. The projected out-turn variance for the year is an underspend of £884,000.

RESOLVED

- (1) to note the contents of the report;**
- (2) to request the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources to provide a brief training session on Service insurance issues at the rising of the Committee's next meeting.**

32 PRUDENTIAL CODE MONITORING REPORT TO 28 FEBRUARY 2014

Peter Hurford, Treasurer to the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority, presented his report informing the Committee of performance to end February 2014 relating to the prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

33 REPORT ON CURRENT PROJECT PROGRESS

Neil Timms, the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, presented the Chief Fire Officer's report on the progress of various projects across the Service. The Strategic Director was assisted by Ian Pritchard, Head of Procurement and Estates, Gavin Harris, ICT Manager and Graham Bosworth, Transport Manager.

The Strategic Director highlighted the following points:

- The construction of the new Retford Fire Station is proceeding well, but the sale of Central Fire Station and its replacement by a new building is progressing more slowly. Work on the SDC Fire House will cost more than originally programmed;
- Projects to deliver a new aerial ladder platform, Water Carrier, Pumping Appliances and Flood Response Unit are all on track or completed. Delivery of the Environmental Protection Unit, Breathing Apparatus Unit and Command Support Vehicle have been delayed;

- The Service ICT Strategy is being completely reassessed by the new ICT Manager to prioritise projects going forward.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

34 VALUE FOR MONEY

Neil Timms, the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, presented the Chief Fire Officer's report outlining the proposed programme for achieving and demonstrating Value for Money in 2014/15 and to report progress against the Value for Money Programme in 2013/14.

The Strategic Director highlighted audits of gas, electricity, water and telephone charges, further joint procurement arrangements and reducing printing costs as priorities in 2014/15.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

35 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - CARDIFF CHECKS

Neil Timms, the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, presented the Chief Fire Officer's report providing the results of internal audit work undertaken in relation to Cardiff checks. The checks did not identify any specific issues.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.