



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM
FIRE AUTHORITY**

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Special Finance Committee on **11 MAY 2004** at County Hall,
West Bridgford, from 10.30 am to 11.40 am

Membership

Councillor Jackson (Chairman)
^ Councillor Bennett
Councillor Freeman
Councillor Griggs
Councillor Pepper
Councillor Pulk

Also in Attendance

Councillor Hempsall

Members absent are marked ^

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor Jackson be appointed Chairman.

2 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Bennett (on County Council business).

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining item as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 2 of part 1 of schedule 12A to the Act.

5 CAPPING APPEAL - SUBMISSION TO OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Consideration was given to the following documents, copies of which were placed around the table:-

- Implications of Capping Announcement
- Letter from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
- Paper in support of Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority's case against capping for 2004/5 - Budget Process
- Financial Paper in support of Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Combined Fire Authority's case against capping for 2005/2006
- Supporting Evidence to the First Secretary of State

The Chief Fire Officer highlighted the following significant achievements during 2003/04:-

- Vehicle Mounted Data System - piloted, developed and commissioned.
- Hosting of the national Risk Watch Seminar
- 95% of public consulted were of the opinion that the service offered very or fairly good value for money
- Public Education programmes during the past 5 years which, despite the East Midlands mortality rates from fires being 15% above the national average, have resulted in:-
 - 20% reduction in accidental dwelling fires
 - 30% reduction in fatalities and injuries
 - 36% reduction in malicious calls
- Investment in staff development - the calibre of staff is reflected in the secondments to other Fire Authorities and the ODPM.

Members also requested that the appeal reflect the exceptional circumstances of the Authority regarding:-

- High levels of deprivation in both the County and City

- First years budget as a precepting authority
- Disruptive costs incurred by secondments
- Striving to deliver change.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Chief Fire Officer compile an appeal to the ODPM and, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to approve the final submission;**
- (2) that all Members of Parliament in the County, and Fire Authority Members be issued with a summary of the appeal;**
- (3) that the Chairman repeat the request for an audience with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, accompanied by the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer's representative, to present the Authority's appeal;**
- (4) that no proposal be made to the form of nomination (in the event of the submission being unsuccessful).**