



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY**

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Authority held on **22 OCTOBER 2004** at the Council House
Old Market Square, Nottingham from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon

Membership

- Councillor Jackson (Chairman)
- Councillor Charlesworth (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor Bennett
- Councillor Bosnjak
- Councillor Cottee
- Councillor Davison
- Councillor Freeman
- ^ Councillor Griggs
- Councillor Grocock
- Councillor Hemsall
- Councillor O'Toole
- Councillor Pepper
- ^ Councillor Pulk
- Councillor Smith
- ^ Councillor Spencer
- ^ Councillor Stephenson
- Councillor Tsimbirdis
- Councillor Wood

Members absent are marked ^

44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pulk, Spencer and Stephenson, Chief Fire Officer Paul Woods and Treasurer Alan Sumbly.

45 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 3 September 2004, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

47 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that a minutes silence was to be held at 12.30 pm in memory of Danielle Beccan who was shot in St Ann's, and as a protest against gun crime and gun culture.

The Chairman also reported that in line with the Local Risk Management Plan, station visits had begun and all members were invited to attend.

48 STATEMENT OF AUDITING STANDARD 610 (SAS 610)

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, including the previous External Auditors, PriceWaterhouseCoppers report to members in advance of signing off the final accounts.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and all staff involved be thanked for their work.

49 INTERNAL AUDIT 2003/4 ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, including the report prepared by the Internal Auditors for 2003/4 and the audit plan for 2004/5.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that the audit plan for 2004/5 be approved.**

50 EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2004/5

RESOLVED that the report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, identifying the new external auditors nominated by the Audit Commission, and detailing the range of work to be undertaken and the standards and timescales be approved.

51 BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 AUGUST 2004

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the actions of managers in investigating budget variances be endorsed.

52 PRUDENTIAL CODE MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, regarding performance against prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

53 PILOT CO-RESPONDER SCHEME INTERIM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the proposed pilot scheme for a co-responder partnership with the East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

RESOLVED that the Interim Memorandum of Understanding be approved as the basis for implementation of a pilot co-responder scheme.

54 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES NATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND INCREASED DELEGATION TO THE EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, on proposals for increased delegated powers for the East Midlands Regional Management Board to allow compliance with National framework requirements.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report, in particular its references to the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework, be noted;**
- (2) that subject to the agreement of the other Regional Management Board Authorities and in accordance with Clause 7.1 of the Agreement dated 8 April 2004 establishing the East Midlands Regional Management Board, and subject to the limitation that the EMRMB shall not effect any decision made under this delegation, the effect of which involved the closure of and/or the relocation of any property, facility or service belonging to any Constituent Fire Authority (as defined by the said agreement) and/or in relation to any relocation of or variation to the staffing establishment of any Constituent Fire Authority, without the approval in writing of the affected Fire Authority, delegated powers of the Regional Management Board be increased as detailed below:-**

- (i) **the task of formulating and implementing policy in relation to the functions set out in paragraph 4.17 of the White Paper ‘Our Fire and Rescue Service’; and**
 - (ii) **any of their functions prescribed within the Fire and Rescue National Framework (or within any revisions thereto) prepared and brought into effect by virtue of section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 as requiring to be undertaken by Regional Management Boards;**
- (3) **that the Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority inform the Clerk of the Regional Management Board of the above decision.**

55 BEST VALUE FOR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES- CONSULTATION, AND BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, that informed members of the consultation on Best Value for Fire and Rescue Authorities and Best Value Performance Indicators.

RESOLVED that, as detailed in appendices A and B to the report, the proposed responses to the consultation on Best Value and Performance Improvement and Best Value Performance Indicators be approved.

56 FULL TIME SECONDMENT TO FIRE BRIGADE UNION REGIONAL SECRETARY POSITION

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the conditions for the secondment of a full-time employee to the post of Regional Secretary to the Fire Brigade Union (FBU), to be released immediately, subject to the approval of the Fire and Rescue Authority.

RESOLVED

- (1) **that the following terms be agreed;**
- **that full salary costs, including pension, be met by the FBU;**
 - **that the secondment last until the next regional elections, and beyond, subject to successful election to the post;**
 - **that return to the service be subject to an available vacancy, the FBU meeting the cost of re-absorption;**
 - **that the vacancy resulting from the secondment be permanently filled to allow the Service to meet operational commitments;**
 - **that during the secondment, the Regional Secretary undertake a minimum of one week’s familiarisation training per year with the Service;**
 - **that at the end of the secondment, the individual undertake extensive re-training, as is standard following any significant absence from duty;**

- (2) that Members be informed of any further conditions proposed by either party.

57 FIRE SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION

RESOLVED that a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, on the progress of the Fire Safety Implementation Plan, supporting the Integrated Risk Management Plan, be noted.

58 AD-HOC MEMBERS GROUP ON EQUALITIES

RESOLVED that a report of the Chief Fire Officer, accompanied by minutes of the meeting held 14 September 2004, copies of which had been circulated, which informed members on the continued work of the Service with regard to fairness and equality, be noted.

59 IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

RESOLVED that a report of the Chief Fire Officer, accompanied by minutes of the meeting held 23 September 2004, copies of which had been circulated, be noted.

60 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITIES SEMINAR

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing members of the two day seminar to be held on 2 and 3 December 2004.

RESOLVED

- (1) that three members from the majority party and one member from each of the minority parties be authorised to attend;
- (2) that the cost per member of £250 (+VAT) for both day's, including overnight accommodation, and £195 (+VAT) for one days attendance, be met from the Member's Expense budget.

61 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 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

62 PURCHASE OF LAND

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the recommendations in the report be approved;**
- (2) that members be kept informed of any developments.**