

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
date	14 JANUARY 2005	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

APPROVAL FOR AD-HOC PANEL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Fire Authority approval for the appointment of an ad-hoc panel to approve final drafts of the Local (Integrated) Risk Management Plan and budget implications, and to scrutinise the self-assessment submission for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will recall on 6 September 2004 that the draft Local (Integrated) Risk Management Plan was approved for consultation. This consultation process concluded on Monday, 6 December 2004 and responses will be presented to the Fire Authority on 14 January 2005. In conjunction with the L(I)RMP consultation document, the draft budget for 2005/2006 has been produced and will be presented to Fire Authority on 14 January 2005.
- 2.2 Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority will also undergo its first Comprehensive Performance Assessment from 25 February to 3 March 2005. The self-assessment of our performance is due at the Audit Commission on 12 February 2005.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 The Fire Authority meeting of 14 January 2005 will give Members the opportunity to assess the responses to the L(I)RMP consultation process. The outcomes of the consultation will contribute to the final 2005/2006 L(I)RMP that will be presented to Members for approval at the next full meeting of the Fire Authority on 25 February 2005.
- 3.2 The meeting of the 25 February 2005 will also be the final opportunity for Members to approve the 2005/2006 budget.
- 3.3 It is important that having produced a draft budget in line with the L(I)RMP consultation document Members have full opportunity to assess the financial implications of any amendments to that L(I)RMP as outcomes of the consultation process. The current schedule of Fire Authority meetings will preclude opportunity to undertake this process.
- 3.4 It is therefore proposed that following the Improvement & Development Board meeting on 1 February 2005, an ad-hoc panel of Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority is convened to assess the budget implications associated with the final draft of the L(I)RMP. This will then be presented to full Fire Authority on 25 February 2005 for final approval.

3.5 In addition to the budget/L(I)RMP issue there is a need for Member endorsement of the self-assessment of Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service before its submission to the Audit Commission prior to CPA.

3.6 The current schedule of Fire Authority meetings would not allow Members to endorse the self-assessment prior to its despatch on 12 February 2005. It is therefore proposed that the ad-hoc panel is given approval to conclude the self-assessment process.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct equal opportunities implications arising from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7.1 It is important that Members have full opportunity to scrutinise the final L(I)RMP and its associated budget implications before it is presented for formal approval at its meeting of 25 February 2005. This ensures that Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority are resilient in terms of external scrutiny of its planning and budgeting process.

7.2 The Comprehensive Performance Assessment infers an expectation that Members endorse the self-assessment. Without the proposed meeting of 1 February 2005 Members will not have an opportunity to formally conclude this element of the CPA process.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Members approve the appointment of an ad-hoc panel to scrutinise the CPA self-assessment and approve final drafts of the L(I)RMP and budget proposals.

8.2 That the ad-hoc panel meets at the rising of the Improvement and Development Board which will be held at 10:00 on 1 February 2005 in Committee Room C at County Hall.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

None.

Paul Woods
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER