

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
date	25 February 2005	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present Members with the minutes of the Improvement and Development Board meeting held on 1 February 2005

2. BACKGROUND

The Improvement and Development Board has now been formed for some time and it was agreed that all minutes from the meetings of the Board would be submitted to Fire Authority Members for their information. The unadopted minutes of the meeting are attached as Appendix A. Members' particular attention is drawn to two items covering reports on Partnership Working and Arson Task Force.

3. REPORT

3.1 The Improvement and Development Board met on 1 February 2005 to update members on :-

- Auditors Report on the Best Value Performance Plan
- Partnership Working of Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Arson Task Force

3.2 The report on the successes of the Arson Task Force in the Bestwood area clearly reflects the impact that the Service has had on improving the quality of life for the Estate's residents. The Partnership Working report also shows how the organisation is embedding the principles of wider social inclusion which forms part of the Authority's strategy.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no equal opportunities implications arising from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management Implications arising from this report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS


8.1 The Members note the contents of the report and attached minutes.

8.2 That Members record their appreciation and support the success with regard to Partnership Working and the Arson Task Force.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

- Auditor's Report on the Best Value Performance Plan
- Report on Partnership Working across Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Report on the progress of the Arson Task Force in the Bestwood area

Paul Woods
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

	<p>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE Minutes of Improvement & Development Board held on Tuesday 1 February 2005 at 1000 hours at County Hall</p>
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Present:	<p>Councillor Graham Jackson Councillor Brent Charlesworth Councillor John Hemsall Councillor Andrew Freeman Councillor Sue Bennett Paul Woods Martyn Emberson Frank Swann Neil Colton Andy Beale Neil Timms Adam Moore George Ware Carole Andrews Councillor John Cottee</p>	<p>Elected Member – Chair Elected Member – Vice Chair Elected Member Elected Member Elected Member CFO DCFO ACFO – Information Services ACFO – Safety Services DO – Safety Services Head of Finance & Resources RFU Unison Minutes Elected Member</p>
Apologies		

Agenda Item	Previous Minute Item		Action By
1.		<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>As above.</p>	
2.		<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: 22 December 2004</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true record.</p>	
3.		<p>MATTERS ARISING</p>	
	4.7	<p>FSEC/Jupiter Project</p> <p>Data from FSEC may well be fed into the data sharing project called Jupiter in Notts. A full report will be brought to the next IDB meeting.</p>	ACO IS
	4.	<p>Changes to HRA Scheme</p> <p>It was stated that the Minutes did not reflect the change of name to “Home Safety Check”. It was felt that it should be stressed for public peace of mind that these checks are virtually the same but that the change in name was purely to reflect the comprehensive approach of the checks.</p>	

AGENDA ITEMS

4.

Auditor's Report on the 2004/2005 Best Value Performance Plan

ACO IS explained the background to the paper saying that the Auditors have the option to assess the Plan as "qualified" or "unqualified". Where a qualified option is given, recommendations are proposed to amend the Plan so as to comply with the legislative and statutory guidance. An unqualified report means that the plan has been prepared and published in accordance with statutory requirements set out in Section 6 of the Local Government Act 1999. IDB Members were informed that the 2004/2005 Best Value Performance Plan has received an unqualified opinion, however, the Auditors did make one recommendation and that was to publish targets not just for the current year but also to include the two subsequent years. The recommendation will be fed into the audit trail and feedback will be received at a later date. IDB accepted the Auditors Report.

5.

Partnership Working of Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service

The report provided a view of community engagement within the geo-political areas and the many other forums that the Fire & Rescue Service engage in with partners. It was explained that there was to be a BV Review of partnerships which would identify partnerships that the NFRS were not engaged in and that this forms a big part of the Safety Services Strategy.

A copy of the full report to be mailed to all Members with further detail added for each District.

ACO SS

Chair asked that there be Member involvement (one City and one County) in BV Review on partnerships and suggested Councillor Bennett as one possible representative.

Councillor Charlesworth asked if the success of partnership engagement was being communicated to stations. He was informed that Staff Briefing Notes were issued on a regular basis and verbal presentations were also carried out to keep personnel up to date on current issues. Charters were also being planned for watches so they will be able to "own" their own projects.

The next issue of the "Update" to focus on why we are doing this work and the impact being made.

ACO SS

A paragraph on this work to be included in report to go with IDB minutes to next CFA.

ACO IS

6.

Arson Task Force – Progress Bestwood Estate

Detailed work has been carried out on the Bestwood Estate around predominantly three roads. There is a incident rate of 115 per 1,000 population in this area as opposed to 80 per 1,000 population in a City-wide area.. A multi-agency task group was set up and a Bestwood Estate Arson Reduction Action Plan was agreed. Various quick intervention measures were put in place which resulted in the incidence of arson being reduced by 75% over a five month period which equates to a financial saving to the Service in excess of £143,000. The success emphasises the value of the ATF and partnership working.

Councillor Charlesworth asked if the information on this success story can be fed back to the City Council and in particular the key players within Bestwood.

Councillor Freeman said that it was the best report he had read at IDB. It was a great example of successful intervention and sustaining it. He would however like to see a diagram for the year after.

Chairman said that IDB should not only note the contents of the report, but place on record the effort and hard work put in.

Funding finishes in March 2006 and monies are to be put aside from the IRMP 2 budget to keep ATF going.

Councillor Charlesworth said that both Stockhill and Arnold Fire Stations should be congratulated on their hard work and the effort they have put into this initiative. It was suggested that Councillors Pepper and Grocock write to the stations on behalf of the Fire Authority.

ACO SS

8.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CFO said that he had asked the DCFO as a member of the Performance Management Group to oversee internal performance of key issues for scrutiny by IDB on a rolling programme basis.

DCFO

9.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Friday, 18 March at 1000 hours in the Training Room at Fire Service HQ.

NOTE this is a change to the programmed date of 10th March.