

## report

meeting	<b>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>	
date	<b>25 February 2005</b>	agenda item number

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

#### THE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK 2005/06

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to present to Members of the Fire and Rescue Authority the 2005/06 Fire & Rescue Service National Framework.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004 became statute with effect from 1 October 2004. This was the first reform of the statute since 1947.
- 2.2 Under Clause 21 of the new Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004, the Secretary of State is required to prepare and keep current a National Framework that sets out priorities and objectives for Fire & Rescue Authorities.
- 2.3 The first National Framework was published following consultation at the end of July 2004, and has been incorporated in Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service's draft IRMP for 2005/06.
- 2.4 The National Framework for 2005-2006 was issued to Members on 18 January 2005. This report highlights the key principles and updates from the previous Framework.

#### 3. Report

- 3.1 The Fire & Rescue Services National Framework sets out clear priorities and objectives for the Fire & Rescue Service. It does this by making clear :-
  - The Government's expectations for the Fire & Rescue Service ;
  - What Fire & Rescue Authorities are expected to do ; and
  - What support Government will provide.
- 3.2 The inaugural Framework published in July 2004 did this by identifying nine areas and incorporating expectations into these nine areas. The areas are :-
  - Fire Prevention and Risk Management ;
  - Working together – the Regional Approach ;
  - Effective Approach ;
  - Resilience and New Dimension ;
  - Fire & Rescue Staff ;
  - Workforce Development ;
  - Finance ;
  - Performance Management ;
  - Research.

- 3.3 The 2005/06 Framework, published on Monday 6 December 2004 follows the same format and principles. It does not replace the first Framework but builds on the strategies it laid out.
- 3.4 As with the first Framework this publication identifies key elements for Fire & Rescue Authorities by producing them in bold type. Those that are different or have been updated are given below to assist Members in assessing the Framework's full implications :-

#### Fire Prevention & Risk Management

- Paragraph 1.9 "Authorities should consider community fire safety and its contribution to meeting the new duty in preparing their IRMPs and in deciding the balance of funding and resources."
- Paragraph 1.11 "Authorities should actively seek to work jointly with local partners in health, social services, housing, education, the voluntary sector and other emergency services to reduce risk to vulnerable groups in line with their IRMPs."
- Paragraph 1.20 "Fire & Rescue Authorities should work with Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships and other partnerships to develop, with other agencies, local solutions to local problems, for example, deliberate firesetting, hoax calls and other forms of anti-social behaviour."

#### Working Together – The Regional Approach

- Paragraph 2.17 "Fire & Rescue Authorities, through Regional Management Boards must:-
- Ensure that they contribute to the delivery of the phased transition from existing Control Rooms to new Control Centres within the overall National Timetable by 2008\*.

\* The 2004/05 originally set a target of 2007.

#### Effective Response

- Paragraph 3.10 "Fire & Rescue Authorities should:-
- Consider the adoption of the CFOA model agreement for Remotely Maintained Fire Alarm Systems published in 2004 following consultation with stakeholders." \*

\*This is an addition to the directive within the 2004/05 Framework.

## Fire & Rescue Staff

Paragraph 5.18 "Fire & Rescue Authorities should have regard to the principles of IPDS, including the Personal Qualities and Attributes (PQA) Framework." \*

\*The PQA Framework updates the previous instruction as per Fire & Rescue Service Circular 51/2004.

Paragraph 5.29 "Fire & Rescue Authorities should:-

Consider the cost and organisational benefits of operating their occupational health arrangements on a regional basis." \*

\*This is far more expressive in its original direction in the 2004/05 Framework.

## Workforce Development

Paragraph 6.11 "Fire & Rescue Authorities, through the Regional Management Board should:-

Review the use currently made of existing facilities and resources and ensure those are used to deliver training as efficiently and effectively as possible." \*

\*This updates the 2004/05 Framework.

## Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPi's)

Annex F presents the revised Best Value Performance Indicators to be incorporated into the Fire & Rescue Service from April 2005.

3.5 The implications from the above workstreams and their effect on Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service will be fed into the corporate risk planning and L(I)RMP planning processes. This will ensure that the organisation is resilient in meeting the expectations of central government.

3.6 The outcomes of the risk profiling will form an essential part of the three year corporate strategy for 2005-2008, and the year three L(I)RMP planning process which will commence in April 2005.

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The document reiterates that the Framework will not "place extra burdens on business, charities, the voluntary or public sector .....". There are, however, some financial implications associated with some of the updates. An example of this is the potential costs associated with upgrades to the Management Information System (MIS) which helps with the recording of Performance Indicators. Initial estimates from the service provider set this at between £3-£5k. These costs can be met from within the existing IT budget.

## **5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report, although some may arise as part of the implementation.

## **6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Targets have been set to increase the percentage of women amongst the uniformed operational staff to 15% and to increase the percentage of minority ethnic representation within the Fire Service to 7% by the year 2009.
- 6.2 The Framework includes the additional responsibility of the Disability Discrimination Act under BVPI 16 in Annex F.

## **7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Section 22 of the Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004 provides the Secretary of State with the power to intervene if he considers a Fire & Rescue Authority is failing, or is likely to fail, to act in accordance with the Framework.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That Members note the contents of this report and its associated implications with regard to the Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service.
- 8.2 That Members approve the inclusion of the Framework objectives within the proposed 2005/2008 Corporate Strategy.

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION**

- The Fire & Rescue Service National Framework 2005/06.

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