



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

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Authority held on **24 FEBRUARY 2006** at The Council House,
Old Market Square, Nottingham from 10.35 am to 12.58 pm.

Membership

Councillor D Pulk	(Chair)
Councillor B Charlesworth	(Vice-Chair)
Councillor J Cottee	
Councillor Y Davidson	
Councillor S Fielding	
Councillor P Griggs	
Councillor B Grocock	
Councillor J Hemsall	
Councillor P Henshaw	
Councillor J Knight	
Councillor P Lally	
Councillor O'Riordan	
Councillor T Pettengell	
Councillor K Rigby	
Councillor M Spencer	
Councillor T Spencer	
Councillor T Stephenson	
Councillor M Wood	

Members absent are marked ^

81 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 December 2005, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

82 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

83 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reported that a petition from partners and families of fire fighters had been presented to the Authority regarding Future Service Delivery Arrangements (item 13 on the agenda), which would be referred to the next meeting of the Personnel Committee.

The Chair also reported that he had attended meetings of the Regional Management Board and the Local Government Association.

84 FUTURE SERVICE DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

RESOLVED

- (1) that consideration of this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Authority on 24 March 2006;**
- (2) that members agree to management entering into negotiations with the Fire Brigades Union with a view to a resolution of the issue of future service delivery, if possible, by mutual agreement.**

Councillor Wood requested that his abstention from voting on this item be recorded.

85 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – PERIOD 9 ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

RESOLVED that the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, regarding variances in the financial performance of the Service and highlighting areas of concern, be noted.

86 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT – PERIOD 9 ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

RESOLVED that the report of the Chief Fire Officer, which analysed significant variances against the original capital programme, copies of which had been circulated, be noted.

87 PRUDENTIAL CODE MONITORING REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2005

RESOLVED that the report of the Treasurer, regarding the Authority's performance against the prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management, copies of which had been circulated, be noted.

88 LEVEL OF BALANCES

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the setting of a risk-based level of balances,

RESOLVED that the proposed level of balances be approved and taken into consideration as part of the 2006/07 budget process.

89 PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL ACCOUNTING

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

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the following prudential limits for 2006/07 be approved:-

Authorised Limit	£15,117,000
Operational Limit	£13,743,000
Upper limit for variable rate interest exposures	30%
Upper limit for fixed rate interest exposures	100%
Loan Maturity	
Under 12 months	less than 20%
12 months to 5 years	less than 20%
5 years to 10 years	less than 75%
Over 10 years	Greater than 25% less than 90%

90 CAPITAL BUDGET 2006/07 TO 2008/09 - REVENUE BUDGET 2006/07 TO 2008/09 - SETTING OF THE 2006/07 PRECEPT

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

RESOLVED unanimously

- (1) that the Capital Programme for 2006/2007 to 2008/2009 be approved;
- (2) that a Revenue Budget for 2006/2007 of £39,847,091 be approved;
- (3) that the precept figure of £19,595,194 be approved and applied to the whole of the City and District Council areas as General Expenses;
- (4) that the precept for 2006/7 be collected from City and District Councils in accordance with their agreed tax bases, with payments in equal instalments on the following dates:

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
21 April	4 January
26 May	9 February
3 July	15 March
7 August	
15 September	
16 October	
22 November	

- (5) that the Council Tax to be raised by the Authority at all bands be as follows:-

Band A	£ 40.57
Band B	£ 47.33
Band C	£ 54.09
Band D	£ 60.85
Band E	£ 74.37
Band F	£ 87.89
Band G	£101.42
Band H	£121.70

- (6) that the indicative revenue budgets for 2006/2007 of £42,656,555 and 2007/2008 of £44,896,676 be approved.

91 EXTERNAL AUDITORS MANAGEMENT LETTER

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

RESOLVED

- (1) that the External Auditors' management letter be noted;
- (2) that significant issues arising from future auditors letters be submitted to the Finance Committee.

92 IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

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

RESOLVED

- (1) that the new Governance arrangements commence with effect from Monday 3 April 2006;
- (2) that the proposed schedule of meeting dates for the period up to the 2006 Annual General Meeting be noted;
- (3) that proposed dates for meetings to be held after the 2006 Annual General Meeting be noted subject to confirmation at the Annual General Meeting.

93 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA)

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, summarising the rationale behind multi-agency working to provide an improved service for communities,

RESOLVED that the Authority's commitment to partnership within the County and City Local Area Agreements be confirmed.

94 BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS PERFORMANCE UPDATE – QUARTER 3

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the Authority's performance against Best Value Performance Indicators laid down by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted and monitoring of the overall performance of the Service be continued;

- (2) that, following the establishment of the new governance framework, quarterly performance monitoring be delegated to the Performance Monitoring Committee and an annual report be submitted to the full Authority.

95 ESTABLISHMENT OF A POST OF HEAD OF COMMUNIOICATIONS

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

RESOLVED

- (1) that, subject to the amendment of the job specification to include:-

- a) Essential Qualifications - Degree level or equivalent
- b) Essential Personal Circumstances – Full valid Driving Licence,

the establishment of the post of Head of Communications be approved within the salary range of £29,958-£32,361;

- (2) that the post be funded by the termination of the press and public relations contract currently held with Nottinghamshire County Council;
- (3) that the Authority's thanks to the County Councils' press and public relations team be recorded.

96 REVISION OF WRITTEN SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT OF INTENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer and the revised written safety policy statement of intent, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that the amended Statement of Intent be endorsed and signed by the Chair.

97 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE 2006

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the proposed programme for conference to be held at Runcorn, Cheshire, on 15 and 16 March 2006.

RESOLVED

- (1) that representation at the Fire Conference 2006 be two members of the majority group and one member of the minority group;
- (2) that the estimated cost per member of £550 be met from the budget for members' allowances.

98 FIREWORKS IN SAFE HANDS – COMMUNITY SAFETY EVENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, which informed members of the safety campaign which resulted in a 15% reduction of firework related incidents during October and November 2005,.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

99 REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD (RMB)

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer and minutes of the RMB meeting held on 8 December 2005, copies of which had been circulated, and to the minutes of the RMB meeting held 26 January 2006, copies of which were placed around the table.

RESOLVED that the report and minutes be noted.

100 AD-HOC MEMBERS GROUP ON EQUALITIES

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer and minutes of meetings of the group held on 5 December 2005 and 17 January 2006, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report and minutes be noted;**
- (2) that, following the establishment of the new governance framework, consideration of reports relating to equality and fairness be delegated to the Personnel Committee.**

101 FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING 24 MARCH 2006

RESOLVED that the meeting to be held on 24 March 2006 commence at 11.15 am instead of 10.30am.

102 EXCLUSION OF THE 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 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

103 ARRANGEMENTS TO DEAL WITH MAJOR DISRUPTION TO SERVICE DELIVERY

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which were placed around the table.

RESOLVED that, subject to the inclusion of the Vice Chair and Lead Minority member in consultation with the Chair and Chief Fire Officer in paragraph 1.2, the report be approved.