

report

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| meeting | NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY | |
| date | 9 June 2006 | agenda item number |

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

GOVERNANCE – TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Fire & Rescue Authority approval for the inclusion of an additional term of reference for Policy & Strategy Committee.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority implemented its revised Governance structure on 3 April 2006 following the conclusion of a full review of the existing structure.

2.2 Within the revised Governance structure new committees with specific delegated powers were formed.

3 REPORT

3.1 The revised committee structure was implemented in April 2006 with the first meeting of all of the new committees being held in April and May 2006.

3.2 Amongst the first responsibilities for all of the committees was the need for them to familiarise themselves with the new terms of reference, and through dialogue to reaffirm these references. In addition the opportunity to make recommendations to Fire & Rescue Authority for any amendments was presented.

3.3 The first reports regarding the committees of Human Resources, Finance & Resources and Community Safety were taken to Policy & Strategy Committee on 22 May 2006. In addition Performance Monitoring Committee also provided a report for Policy & Strategy Committee although once fully established this committee will report directly to Fire & Rescue Authority.

3.4 One of the key issues that the committees felt that they all should be concerned with was the aspect of ensuring Value for Money for the taxpayers of City and County. This held with the Fire & Rescue Authority's adopted goal of becoming "an efficient and effective Service".

3.5 As Value for Money was such a broad issue for all committees it was felt that Policy & Strategy Committee should take a strategic lead in this matter and through their existing terms of reference, each of the specific committees should ensure that Value for Money is delivered across the Service. An amendment to the terms of

reference for Policy & Strategy Committee was proposed and is included as recommendation 8.1 of this report.

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 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial Equality Impact Assessment has revealed no specific equalities issues arising from this report.

7 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

A good and effective Governance structure is an essential part of the Fire & Rescue Service. This is formally assessed through the Fire CPA process and failure to demonstrate effective governance could lead to intervention measures by the Secretary of State.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

That Fire & Rescue Authority approve the following addition to the terms of reference for Policy & Strategy Committee.

'to take the strategic lead on ensuring delivery of a Value for Money Service.'

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

- Fire & Rescue Authority reports on Governance, June, July, September 2005
- Audit Commission – CPA Report
- ODPM publication – “Local Leadership, Local Choice”
- ODPM publication – “A Share of the Action”
- ODPM publication – “Political Leadership under the new Political Management Structures”
- ODPM publication – “The Future of Local Government Developing a 10-year Vision”
- ODPM publication – White Paper “Our Fire & Rescue Service”
- Fire & Rescue Services Circular 13/2005
- Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004
- Fire & Rescue Services National Framework 2004/2005
- Fire & Rescue Services National Framework 2005/2006
- CPA for Fire & Rescue Services – Audit Commission

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CHIEF FIRE OFFICER