

## report

meeting	<b>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>	
date	<b>13 September 2006</b>	agenda item number

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

#### COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CPA) 2006

##### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on the detail of the forthcoming CPA process.

##### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 CPA was introduced in to the Fire & Rescue Service in 2005 as a result of the Fire & Rescue Services' National Framework. It replaced the previous inspection regime which rested with Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI).
- 2.2 Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service received its first CPA assessment in Spring 2005 and was rated as "fair". That assessment focused primarily on the corporate management and direction of the Service.

##### 3. REPORT

3.1 Commencing in Autumn 2006, the Service will be undergoing a further CPA process to measure its progress in terms of improvement. The forthcoming CPA process will focus on the following three areas:-

- Use of Resources (commencing 25/09/06)
- Direction of Travel (commencing 25/09/06)
- Service Assessment (commencing 06/11/06)

The outcomes of this inspection will be published in March 2007.

3.2 Each of the areas cited in Paragraph 3.1 cover a specific element of the inspection and have an associated Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE). These are explained in the following paragraphs.

3.3 Use of Resources - this assessment will provide a scored assessment across a broad range of financial issues. It will focus on the Authority's arrangements for sound and strategic financial management to support the Authority's priorities and to improve services. To assess Use of Resources, auditors will make judgements in the following areas:-

- Financial Reporting
- Financial Management
- Financial Standing
- Internal Control
- Value for Money

The assessment will be based on work carried out by the Authority's appointed auditor. Full details relating to this inspection criteria are included as Appendix A to this report.

3.4 Direction of Travel - the purpose of this assessment will to provide a concise statement on the Authority's improvement, or deterioration, since the baseline CPA categorisation. The assessment will show how well the Authority has performed since the original Fire & Rescue CPA categorisation and whether or not it is considered that it will continue to improve. The assessment will be determined by examining two areas of focus:-

- What evidence is there of the Fire & Rescue Authority improving outcomes.
- How much progress is being made to implement improvement plans to sustain improvement.

Full details relating to this process are attached as Appendix B to this report.

3.5 Service Assessment - the purpose of this aspect of the inspection is to take a broad outcome based view of the Authority's performance in delivering the Service, as defined by the Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004. The inspection will consist of two elements, an Operational Assessment of Service Delivery and the Performance Information element.

3.5.1 The Operational Assessment of Service Delivery will cover the following areas based on the principles of the Integrated Risk Management Plan :-

- Risk Analysis
- Prevention & Protection
- Operational Preparedness
- Call Management and Incident Support; and
- Emergency Response

3.5.2 The Performance Information element will bring together a range of the Authority's performance indicators to measure their outputs. This will be weighted by deprivation indices, and be compared against pre-determined upper and lower thresholds. This element of the inspection will be carried out by teams from the Department of Communities and Local Government, comprising of Fire & Rescue Services practitioners. Full details on this process are included as Appendix C of this report.

3.6 In respect of the scoring process, each of the three elements will be scored between 1 and 4 using the following criteria:-

- 4 – Performing/Improving Strongly
- 3 – Performing/Improving Well
- 2 – Performing/Improving/Adequate Performance
- 1 – Below Requirements/Inadequate Performance

3.7 The timetable for the process is included as Appendix D to this report. Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service specifically will receive its Use of Resources/Direction of Travel assessments commencing 25 September 2006, and its Service Assessment 6-8 November 2006. Results are expected to be announced in March 2007.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any financial implications relating to the CPA process are as a consequence of the time and preparation required for the inspection. These are contained within existing budget provisions.

#### **5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

#### **6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

An initial impact assessment has revealed there are no specific equalities issues arising from this report.

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

CPA 2006 will assess how the Service is progressing against its original benchmark of CPA 2005. In cases where the Secretary of State feels Services are not making suitable progress, the option of intervention is available.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the contents of this report and the process of CPA to be undertaken.

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

- Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004 ;
- Fire & Rescue National Framework 2006/2008 ;
- Fire & Rescue Performance Framework 2006/2007 ;
- Audit Commission Website - [www.audit-commission.gov.uk/cpa/fire/fireframework.asp](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/cpa/fire/fireframework.asp).

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