



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

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Authority held on **8 DECEMBER 2006** at The Council House, Old Market Square, Nottingham from 10.38 am to 12.45 pm.

Membership

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

Members absent are marked ^

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Grocock (on City Council business) and Councillor Hemsall.

42 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 13 September 2006, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Frank Swann, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Information Services), declared a personal and financial interest in item 7 on the agenda (minute 47) regarding the appointment of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and left the room for the duration of the item.

Mr Andrew Beale, Temporary Area Manager (Safety Services), declared a personal and financial interest in item 7 on the agenda (minute 47) regarding the appointment of an Assistant Chief Fire Officer and left the room for the duration of the item.

Prior to the consideration of the item referred to in minute 58, a further declaration of interest was received from the Chief Fire Officer, details of which are recorded in that minute.

44 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that since the last Authority meeting, he and other Members had attended a variety of meetings and events, including visiting district councils to explain and discuss the Community Safety Plan.

It was with great sadness that the Chair informed members of the recent death of County Councillor and Fire and Rescue Authority Member, Councillor Nellie Smedley.

In addition, during the past few days, two firefighters from East Sussex had died while attending an incident.

All in attendance stood in silence as a tribute to the deceased.

45 MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED that the appointment of Councillor Helen Holt (in place of Councillor Nellie Smedley) be noted.

46 BUDGET CONSULTATION 2007/08

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

Members requested that further information be supplied regarding who was to be consulted on the proposed budget.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the budget guidelines, as set out in the report, be approved;**
- (2) that the Treasurer commence the consultation process in respect of the 2007/08 revenue budget.**

Councillor Spencer abstained from voting on this item.

47 NEW APPOINTMENTS: DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Mr Swann and Mr Beale, having declared personal and financial interests in this matter, left the room for the duration of the item.

Consideration was given to a report of the Chair of the Authority, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the recommendation by the Appointments Committee following the short-listing and interview process which concluded on 9 November 2006.

RESOLVED (unanimously)

- (1) that Mr F Swann be appointed Deputy Chief Fire Officer of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority with effect from 25 December 2006;**
- (2) that Mr A Beale be appointed an Assistant Chief Fire Officer of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority with effect from 25 December 2006.**

48 CHANGES TO FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, having been considered by the Human Resources Committee at its meeting on 6 October 2006.

The report detailed how the changes had arisen from the Firefighters' Pension Scheme Amendment Orders 2005 and 2006, and detailed the impact that the Orders had on the terms and conditions of service for firefighters.

Representatives of the Fire Brigades Union asked questions of the Chair regarding this item, to which verbal responses were given.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that, under Rule K2 of the firefighters' pension scheme 1992, the review period for special injury awards be set at five years, to be undertaken at annual intervals on advisement from the Service Consultant Occupational Health Physician;**
- (3) that the early release of pension benefits and immediate re-engagement into a salaried role be approved conditional upon a policy to be developed by the Human Resources Committee and presented to the Authority at its meeting on 23 February 2007;**
- (4) that, in the event of an early release of pension benefits and re-engagement into a salaried role, an abatement be applied to pension payments.**

49 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE 2007

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, which informed Members of the conference to be held at Peterborough on 13 and 14 March 2007. The proposed theme of the conference was to be Fire and Rescue in 2017: Rising to the Challenge.

RESOLVED

- (1) that two Members from the Majority Group and one from the Lead Minority Group represent this Authority at the Conference;**
- (2) that the estimated total cost per delegate of £600 be met from the Members' Conference Expenses budget.**

50 CODE OF CONDUCT

Further to minute 29, dated 13 September 2006, consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated. Following consultation and consideration by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 15 November 2006, the report proposed a code of conduct for members and officers.

RESOLVED

- (1) that following recommendation by the Standards Committee, the Code of Conduct be adopted;**
- (2) that a copy of the code be forwarded to all Members and Officers informing them of the protocols and obligations under the code's provisions.**

51 EXTERNAL AUDITORS GOVERNANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee, copies of which had been circulated, on the External Auditors Governance Report for 2005/06, received by the Finance and Resources Committee at its meeting on 13 October 2006.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

52 DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2007/10 (YEAR 4, L(I)RMP) CONSULTATION UPDATE

Further to minute 26, dated 13 September 2006, consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing Members of the results of the consultation.

Representatives of the Fire Brigades Union asked questions of the Chair regarding this item, to which verbal responses were given.

RESOLVED that the responses to the Community Safety Plan 2007/10 be noted and that any responses to the consultation be factored into the final document prior to publication and adoption in 2007.

53 SHIFT CHANGE IMPLEMENTATION

Further to minute 118, dated 28 April 2006, consideration was given to a joint report of Chief Fire Officer and Chair of the Shift Change Implementation Task and Finish Group, copies of which had been circulated, accompanied by minutes of the Shift Change Implementation Task and Finish Group meetings, which detailed the progress made to date.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that the Authority's thanks to Members, Officers and Union representatives involved in the Shift Change Implementation Task and Finish Group be recorded;**
- (3) that minutes of the Task and Finish Group be circulated to all Authority Members prior to inclusion on the Fire and Rescue Authority Agenda.**

54 FIRE 2006 CONFERENCE: OUTCOMES

Further to minute 19, dated 9 June 2006, consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, summarising the topics included in this year's event and a transcript of a speech made by Angela Smith MP.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and Members continue to support attendance at the event.

55 INTERIM REPORT ON GOVERNANCE

Consideration was given to a joint report of Chief Fire Officer and Chair of the Authority, copies of which had been circulated, which presented a brief summary of the revised governance arrangements and a Member attendance chart.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the improvements achieved following the introduction of a revised Governance structure be noted and the continued commitment of Members and Officers to the process be endorsed;**
- (2) that the Chief Fire Officer:-**
 - (a) submit a further report regarding the revised governance arrangements following twelve months of implementation;**
 - (b) report on Member attendance at six-monthly intervals to the Policy and Strategy Committee.**

56 HUMAN RESOURCES REVIEW

Although this item was withdrawn from the agenda (no papers were circulated), representatives of the Fire Brigades Union asked questions of the Chair regarding this item, to which verbal responses were given.

57 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 items as they contained information relating to individuals and were likely to reveal the identity of those individuals and, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Prior to the consideration of the following item, minute 58, the Chief Fire Officer declared a personal and non-financial interest and withdrew from the meeting.

58 HUMAN RESOURCES REVIEW

Further to minute 16, dated 9 June 2006, consideration was given to a report of the Human Resources Review Group, copies of which were circulated on the day of the meeting and included the report of the Consultants, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

RESOLVED

- (1) that the independent report from PwC be accepted and the next steps programme contained within the document be fully endorsed;**
- (2) that the Human Resources Review Group remain in place to ensure progress was made within the parameters of the PwC report and that the group continue to consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Conservative Spokesperson, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson, Deputy Chief Fire Officer (as a replacement for the Chief Fire Officer) and, until the return to work of the current Head of Human Resources, the interim Head of Human Resources;**
- (3) that the Appointments Committee be tasked, and given full approval, to appoint an interim Head of Human Resources for an initial period of six months, as per the recommendation within the Human Resources Review;**
- (4) that upon appointment, the interim Head of Human Resources become a member of the Human Resources Review Group;**
- (5) that management be instructed to undertake such further action as set out in the recommendations appended to the report;**
- (6) that the Clerk and Treasurer be instructed to undertake such further action as set out in the recommendations appended to the report;**

The Chair of the meeting was of the opinion that this item, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the special

circumstances that it was vital that delegated authority be granted by the Authority prior to the next meeting of the Authority to enable negotiations to be concluded.

59 PROPOSED SALE OF DUNKIRK FIRE STATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which were circulated on the day of the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the sale of the Dunkirk Fire Station site, jointly with the City Council, to Gladman Estates, be approved;**
- (2) that the Chair, Vice-Chair and Spokesperson for the Lead Opposition Group, in consultation with the Head of Finance and Resources, be given delegated authority to approve a final sale price of not less than £5m, of which the Authority was to receive 70%.**