



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Report of the Chair of the Finance & Resources
Committee

Agenda No:

Date: 22 February 2008

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members on the business and actions of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting of 14 December 2007.

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1. BACKGROUND

As part of the revised Governance arrangements the Authority has delegated key responsibilities for Finance and Resources to the Finance and Resources Committee. As part of those delegated responsibilities, the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee and the Management lead report to the Authority on its business and actions as agreed at Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on 1 June 2007.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting are attached to this report at Appendix B. The following summarises the main points of the papers discussed at each meeting.
- 2.2 This meeting dealt mainly with monitoring reports presented by Officers and there was extensive discussion around the Budget Monitoring Report to the end of October 2007, where although an overspend to date of £516,000 was reported, a projected underspend of some £600,000 was anticipated.
- 2.3 The movement from an overspend to date of £516k to a projected underspend of -£619k is largely explained by the following factors:
- Part time operational pay is currently overspending to date by £221k, but projections assume activity levels for the rest of the year are in line with 2006/07, as there is no reliable way to predict future turnouts. This results in a projected overspend of £25k, a difference of £196k.
 - Building maintenance is overspent by £98k to date, but the budget holder is aiming to contain expenditure within the annual budget, resulting in no variance at year end.
 - Operating lease payments are mainly charged at year end, so only a small variance of -£15k is showing to date. The projected underspend is £409k, a difference of £394k.
 - Difficulties with Prince's Trust income have resulted in a total overspend to date of £112k on Trading Accounts, although this variance is expected to reduce to nil by year end.
 - Integrated risk management planning and contingency budgets do not show expenditure to date as these are allocated to mainstream budgets as workstreams commence. There is therefore no variance to date showing against these budgets, but a projected underspend by year end of -£174k.
- 2.4 Members raised a number of questions with Officers in respect of budget variances and sought explanations and assurances on a number of issues.

- 2.5 The Prudential Code Monitoring report again showed the Authority to be operating within the targets and limits set by the Authority.
- 2.6 The Capital Monitoring report again showed significant underspendings and Members sought assurances that this was not leading to risk exposures particularly in the area of Information Technology. Members specifically asked for an update on the Information Communications Technology Strategy and this was presented to the Policy and Strategy Committee on 1 February 2008 for approval. Copies have been sent to all Members of the Finance and Resources Committee for their information.
- 2.7 The report dealing with the monitoring of efficiency gains showed that the Authority is already ahead of the three year target of £2.216m by some £807,000 having achieved efficiency gains of £3.023m
- 2.8 Importantly the report also showed that the Authority has identified additional efficiency gains since the “forward look” statement was issued, which shows that management and staff are continuing to identify opportunities for efficiencies beyond those already set out. There is further evidence of this in the savings which have been identified in the development of the 2008/9 proposed budget which is also presented on this agenda.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All of the reports considered by Finance and Resources Committee on 14 December 2007 were finance related. However, there were no significant financial implications arising from those reports.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

All personnel implications were considered as part of the original reports submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial equality impact assessment has been carried out in relation to this report and is attached as Appendix A. This shows that there are no equalities implications arising from this report.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional risk management issues arising from this report other than those specifically reported to the Committee as part of the reports under consideration.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report and the business undertaken by the Finance and Resources Committee.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

Councillor Penny Griggs
CHAIR OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<i>Section</i>	<i>Manager</i>	<i>Date of Assessment</i>	<i>New or Existing</i>
Finance	N Timms	2 February 2008	New
Name of Report to be assessed		Finance and Resources Committee Outcomes	
1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the report.		To inform the Fire and Rescue Authority of the business of the Finance and Resources Committee from its meeting on 14 December 2007.	
2. Who is intended to benefit from this report and what are the outcomes?		The Fire and Rescue Authority require a report on the business of its Committees on a regular basis.	
3. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the report?		Fire and Rescue Authority	
4. Who implements and who is responsible for the report?		Implementation of any actions arising is the responsibility of the Head of Finance and Resources.	

5. Please identify the differential impact in the terms of the six strands below. Please tick yes if you have identified any differential impacts. Please state evidence of negative or positive impacts below.

<i>STRAND</i>	Y	N	<i>NEGATIVE IMPACT</i>	<i>POSITIVE IMPACT</i>
Race		X		
Gender		X		
Disability		X		
Religion or Belief		X		
Sexuality		X		
Age		X		

6. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group?	Y	N	7. Should the policy/service proceed to a full impact assessment?	Y	N
					X

I am satisfied that this policy has been successfully impact assessed. I understand the impact assessment of this policy is a statutory obligation and that, as owners of this policy, we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this process.

Signed (completing person) Neil Timms Head of Finance and Resources

Date 2 February 2008



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

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of the meeting held on **14 DECEMBER 2007** at The Council House, Old Market Square,
from 10.00 am to 10.45 am.

Membership

Councillor P Griggs (Chair)
Councillor B Cooper
Councillor P Lally
^ Councillor T Pettengell
^ Councillor M Wood

Members absent are marked ^

21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pettengell and Wood.

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

23 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 12 October 2007, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

24 MONITORING UPDATES - PERIOD ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2007

(a) Budget

Further to minute 16(a) dated 12 October 2007, consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the financial performance of the service and highlighting areas of concern.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that a revised year end projection be submitted to the Policy and Strategy Committee in February 2008.**

(b) Capital Programme

Further to minute 16(b) dated 12 October 2007, consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, analysing the significant variances against the original programme.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that an update report on Hassocks Lane be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.**

(c) Efficiency Gains

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the progress towards achieving the cashable efficiency gains included in the 2007/08 Forward Look Annual Efficiency Statement.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(d) Prudential Code

Further to minute 16(c) dated 12 October 2007, consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the performance of the Authority against the prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.