



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

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Authority held on **22 FEBRUARY 2008** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Nottingham from 1.06 pm to 2.55 pm

Membership

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

Members absent are marked ^

57 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Henshaw and Spencer.

58 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 7 December 2007, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

59 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

60 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reported that he had recently attended a meeting with Chairs of other Fire and Rescue Authorities and the Minister Parmjit Dhanda MP, at which there had been an open discussion where some Authorities had raised concerns regarding council tax precepts.

The Chair had also attended meetings of both the Regional Management Board and Local Authority Company, and informed the Committee that while an Operations Manager had been appointed to the New Regional Control Centre, there was still work to be done before the Centre was fully functional.

A Members' Room was now available at the Service Headquarters following refurbishment. The room was fully furnished but issues regarding incompatibility of Information Technology were yet to be resolved.

The Chair reminded members that on 7 March a Members' seminar was to be held at the Fire and Rescue Service headquarters and that the provision of photo cards (electronic passes) for members would be arranged.

A letter had been received from Humberside's Chief Fire Officer expressing gratitude for support and assistance received from Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service during the period of flooding in Humberside. The Chair requested that this information be forwarded to the firefighters concerned and that the Authority's acknowledgement of their contribution be recorded.

The Chair reported that the Shift Change Implementation Task and Finish Group was moving forward and progressing well and commented on the importance of recognising such positive joint working to the benefit of all involved. For the stations involved in the pilot shift change, sickness levels were at their lowest ever and ridership was the highest ever. Firefighters at other stations were keen to start the new shift patterns but members were reminded that the scheme was to be rolled out gradually. .

61 PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE 2008/09

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated. The recommendation was amended at the meeting. It was reported that recommendation 8.3 referred to paragraph 2.48 of the report, and not paragraph 2.44 as indicated.

RESOLVED that the capital plans and monitoring processes, as set out in the report, and the following Prudential Limits for 2008/09 be approved: -

Authorised Limit	£24,720,000
Operational Boundary	£22,473,000

Upper limit for variable rate interest exposures	30%
Upper limit for fixed rate interest exposures	100%

Loan Maturity:
Under 12 months
12 months to 5 years
5 years to 10 years
Over 10 years

Limits:
Upper 20% Lower 0%
Upper 20% Lower 0%
Upper 75% Lower 0%
Upper 100% Lower 25%

62 WORKING BALANCES

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the levels of reserves and balances to meet the requirements of the Authority during the 2008/09 financial year and beyond.

RESOLVED that the level of working balances be maintained at the current level of £2.64m for the financial year 2008/09.

63 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2008/09 TO 2010/11 AND PRECEPT AND COUNCIL TAX 2008/09

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

RESOLVED (Unanimously) that, as detailed in the report, the following be approved: -

(1) capital budget provisions totalling: -

	<u>£</u>
2008/09	6,436,000
2009/10	5,017,000
2010/11	5,365,000

(2) net revenue budget provisions totalling: -

	<u>£</u>
2008/09	44,306,296
2009/10	46,061,250
2010/11	47,714,707

(3) Council Tax in 2008/09 for the Fire Authority, as follows:-

	<u>£</u>
Band A	43.63
Band B	50.90
Band C	58.17
Band D	65.44
Band E	79.98
Band F	94.52
Band G	109.07
Band H	130.88

- (4) a Fire Authority Precept in 2008/09 of £21,401,662.00 be applied to the whole of the City and District Council areas as General Expenses and billed to each District Council as follows:-

	£
Ashfield	2,261,595.46
Bassetlaw	2,330,237.06
Broxtowe	2,295,895.00
Gedling	2,467,315.45
Mansfield	2,031,306.91
Newark and Sherwood	2,475,722.66
Rushcliffe	2,649,368.59
Nottingham City	<u>4,890,220.87</u>
	<u>21,401,662.00</u>

- (5) the precept for 2008/09 be collected from City and District Councils in accordance with their agreed tax bases, with payments in equal instalments on dates agreed between financial officers.

64 HUMAN RESOURCES STRATEGY - UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing members on the work undertaken to update the Human Resources strategy.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Human Resources Strategy for the period 2008-11, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be adopted;
- (2) that the Chief Fire Officer report to the Human Resources Committee, on at least an annual basis, regarding progress in achieving the targets detailed in the Strategy.

65 NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, proposing the Authority's commitment to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Chair and the Chief Fire Officer sign the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Authority and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service;
- (2) that the result of an audit on the environmental impact of the Service be submitted to a meeting of the Authority when completed;
- (3) that the Chief Fire Officer submit an annual report on the impact of work linked to the climate change agenda, to include environmental impact and internal Service impact.

66 TRANSFER TO REGIONAL CONTROL CENTRE – UPDATE

Although a question had not been received in writing, representatives of the Fire Brigades Union were permitted to ask a question of the Chair regarding this item, to which a verbal response was given.

Further to minute 26 of the Human Resources Committee held on 5 January 2008, consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, regarding responsibility for employment issues post-transfer of staff to the Regional Control Centre.

RESOLVED

- (1) that employment matters arising from the Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 and 2006 (TUPE) of staff to the Regional Control Centre, post-transfer, be the responsibility of East Midlands Regional Control Centre Ltd;**
- (2) that this decision be submitted for approval to the Regional Management Board.**

67 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, to update the Authority on current levels of allowances and request approval to the scheme for 2008/09.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that the Members' Allowances Scheme for the financial year 2008/09, appended to the report, be approved and implemented with effect from 1 April 2008.**

68 UNPAID SPECIAL LEAVE

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

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that the request of a firefighter, as detailed in the report, for twelve months unpaid leave in accordance with the provisions of Section D5 of the Personnel Handbook be approved.**

69 POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Consideration was given to the report of the Chair of the Policy and Strategy Committee, copies of which had been circulated, updating members on the work undertaken by the Policy and Strategy Committee since the last meeting of the Authority.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

70 HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Consideration was given to the report of the Chair of the Human Resources Committee, copies of which had been circulated, updating members on the work undertaken by the Human Resources Committee since the last meeting of the Authority.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that the Authority's appreciation of the progress made by Human Resources staff be recorded.**

71 PERFORMANCE MONITORING COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Consideration was given to the report of the Chair of the Performance Monitoring Committee, copies of which had been circulated, updating members on the work undertaken by the Performance Monitoring Committee since the last meeting of the Authority.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

73 FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Consideration was given to the report of the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee, copies of which had been circulated, updating members on the work undertaken by the Finance and Resources Committee since the last meeting of the Authority.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

74 COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Consideration was given to the report of the Chair of the Community Safety Committee, copies of which had been circulated, updating members on the work undertaken by the Community Safety Committee since the last meeting of the Authority.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

75 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 contained information relating to the financial and business affairs of a particular individual 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.

76 LONG TERM ASSET PLANNING

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

RESOLVED

- (1) that a long-term commitment to the proposals detailed in the report be supported in principle;**
- (2) that the Chief Fire Officer: -**
 - (a) inform the party concerned accordingly and take the action referred to in the report;**
 - (b) establish an informal members' working group comprising 3 majority group members, and 1 member from each of the other two groups.**
 - (c) submit appropriate progress reports to meetings of the Fire and Rescue Authority.**