



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: 23 May 2008

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members on the business and actions of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting of 4 April 2008.

CONTACT OFFICER

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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 There were four monitoring reports presented at this meeting covering revenue budgets, capital budgets, the Prudential Code and efficiency savings.
 - 2.2.1 The revenue monitoring report showed that the revenue budget was overspending as at the end of February 2008, although this was expected to become a £331k underspend by the end of the financial year. Members expressed concern about the levels of overspend on two budget heads, namely travel expenses and operational overtime, and requested further reports on progress achieved in bringing these two areas back in line with budgets.
 - 2.2.2 The capital monitoring report showed an underspend as at the end of February 2008, with a projected underspend at the end of the year of £4.4m against a £9.8m budget (budget including slippage from the previous year). The reasons for this underspend were explained as being mainly due to difficulties in procuring fire appliances, delays in the start of construction work at Highfields Fire Station and some slippage in the ICT capital programme.
 - 2.2.3 The Prudential Code monitoring report demonstrated that the Authority had been operating within the targets and limits set for the financial year.
 - 2.2.4 The Efficiency Statement monitoring report showed that the Authority was forecasting a cashable gain for 2007/08 of £1.5m. Actual cumulative efficiency gains for the period 2005/06, 2006/07 and 11 months of 2007/08 were £3.5m against a three year target of £2.2m.
- 2.3 An update was reported to Members on progress relating to the building of Highfields Fire Station. There was a discussion regarding the Bills of Quantity and ongoing negotiations with Broxtowe Borough Council about off-site drainage. It was reported that overall costs were expected to be contained within the budget and Members requested a further progress report at the next meeting.

- 2.4 The new District Auditor, John Cornett, attended the meeting and presented a report on the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter. It was reported that the Authority was improving adequately in terms of direction of travel and in a strong position to make further improvements. The use of resources assessment was “3” (performing well), which was an improvement on the previous year’s assessment at “2”. The overall service assessment was scored at “2” (performing adequately).
- 2.5 Members received a report detailing the Internal Audit Strategy covering the next three years and a detailed audit plan for 2008/09.
- 2.6 The Treasury Management Strategy for 2008/09 was presented to Members, covering borrowing, investments and the management of cash. There was some discussion around the recent turmoil in financial markets and the impacts being felt by the Authority.
- 2.7 Members considered a report detailing the proposed approach in respect of Value for Money. An update was given on progress in achieving value for money in areas previously identified for 2007/08. In addition it was explained that the emphasis of value for money work will shift towards embedding the principles into corporate practices so that all employees understand the importance of value for money and how they can contribute to improvements.
- 2.8 A report on the themes of the 2008 CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Conference was presented. The themes include emergency planning; modern democracy; sustainability; Comprehensive Area Assessment and Local Area Agreements. The Head of Finance and Resources will attend the conference with the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All of the reports considered by Finance and Resources Committee on 4 April 2008 were finance related. However, there were no significant financial implications arising from those reports.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

All human resources and learning and development 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 4 April 2008.	
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 **4 APRIL 2008** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottingham, from 10.00 am to 11.20 am.

Membership

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

Members absent are marked ^

25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Pettengell.

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

27 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 14 December 2007, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

28 REVENUE MONITORING - PERIOD 11, ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2008

Further to minute 24(a) dated 14 December 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 progress on the issues of overtime and transport be reported to meetings on an ongoing basis.**

29 CAPITAL MONITORING TO 29 FEBRUARY 2008

Further to minute 24(b) dated 14 December 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 that the report be noted.

30 PRUDENTIAL CODE MONITORING TO 29 FEBRUARY 2008

Further to minute 24(d) dated 14 December 2007, consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing performance relating to the prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management.

The following amendment to paragraph 2.1 of the report was highlighted:-

- replace '£5,468m' with '£5.468m'.

RESOLVED that the amended report be noted.

31 HIGHFIELDS PROJECT UPDATE

Further to minute 24(b) dated 14 December 2007, consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, highlighting progress on the project to build a new fire station on Hassocks Lane in Beeston.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and a progress report be submitted to the next meeting.

32 ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, underlining the findings of the External Auditors' annual audit and inspection management letter.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report and views of the External Auditors be noted;**
- (2) that the relevant officers be commended for the improved score of 3 out of 4 for 'use of resources'.**

33 INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY 2008-10

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, which included the planned internal audit work to be undertaken during 2008/09.

RESOLVED that the Internal Audit Strategy 2008-10 and the Internal Audit Annual Plan 2008/09 be approved.

34 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2008/09

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, which informed Members of the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy, and included the approved lending list of UK based and overseas institutions.

RESOLVED that the Treasury Management Strategy and lending list be approved.

35 VALUE FOR MONEY

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, which outlined proposals to achieve and demonstrate value for money in 2008/09 and detailed progress against the value for money programme for 2007/08.

RESOLVED that the proposed approach to achieving value for money be approved.

36 ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENTS TO FEBRUARY 2008

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

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

37 CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY (CIPFA) CONFERENCE 2008

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, outlining the theme and format of this year's CIPFA Conference, which the Head of Finance and Resources and the Chair of this committee would attend.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.