



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

MINUTES

of the meeting of the Authority held on **20 FEBRUARY 2009** Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Nottingham from 10.32 am to 11.47 am.

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 ^

72 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fielding and Owen.

73 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Highfields Fire and Rescue Station Opening Event

The Chair announced the official opening of the new Highfields Fire Station at Beeston by HRH The Princess Royal on 10 February 2009.

The event, which was attended by several Councillors and the Management Team, was a successful launch of this prestigious station which included the latest facilities and 3 rooms for community use.

Members commended and thanked the officers who had organised the event for their outstanding skills and hard work.

Working Time Directive

While the European Parliament had proposed to opt out of the Working Time Directive, the Council of Ministers had rejected the proposal and returned it to the European Parliament .

Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) of Direction of Travel

The recently published CPA report and press release concluded that the Service had been identified as one of two authorities which had significantly raised performance levels.

Partnership Manager

The Chair reported that recruitment to the Partnership Manager post, funded by internal efficiency gains, had been completed and Mr Chris Hooper had been appointed to start work with the Service in May. Mr Hooper was currently employed by the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) as a service policy advisor. Members requested further information regarding his working background and welcomed a possible presentation by Mr Hooper at a future meeting.

Member's Seminar

Members were reminded that there was to be a Member's Seminar on 6 March starting at 9.30 am at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters. In addition to attendance, Members were requested to consider contributing with presentations on their experiences within the Authority.

Regional Control Centre

With regard to the Regional Control Centre, the Chair and Vice-Chair had attended a meeting of the board at which it was decided to revise the existing timetable.

74 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

75 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 December 2008, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

76 WORKING BALANCES

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing members of the working balances sufficient to meet the needs of the Authority during the 2009/10 financial year and beyond.

RESOLVED the current level of working balance of £3.3 million, deemed sufficient to meet the risks and potential liabilities identified in the risk assessment, be noted.

77 PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE 2009/10

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing members of the Authority's obligations under the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code.

RESOLVED that the Prudential Limits for 2009/10 as follows, be approved;

Authorised Limit	£28,041,000
Operational Boundary	£25,492,000
Upper limit for variable rate interest exposures	30%
Upper limit for fixed rate interest exposures	100%
Loan Maturity:	Limits:
Under 12 months	Upper 20% Lower 0%
12 months to 5 years	Upper 30% Lower 0%
5 years to 10 years	Upper 75% Lower 0%
Over 10 years	Upper 100% Lower 25%

78 MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY 2009/10

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that the following Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2009/10 be approved:

- (a) for all borrowing and credit arrangements to fund capital expenditure incurred before or during 2006/07, the minimum revenue provision applied in 2009/10 was to continue to be calculated on the basis of the 4% CFR (capital financing requirement) method. This method was to continue to be used in future years for capital expenditure incurred during or before 2006/07;
- (b) for all borrowing and credit arrangements to fund capital expenditure incurred from 2007/08 onwards, the minimum revenue provision applied in 2009/10 was to be calculated on the basis of the Asset Life method.

**79 CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS 2009/2010 TO 2011/2012
PRECEPT AND COUNCIL TAX 2009/2010**

Further to minute 23 of the Policy and Strategy Committee dated 30 January 2009, consideration was given to a report of the Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority,, copies of which had been circulated.

The Chair requested that an error in the recommendation be corrected to refer to paragraph 2.50 and not 2.47, and thanked the officers involved in producing the budgets for their hard work.

Members requested that new preventative initiatives, as outlined in paragraph 2.41, be better publicised to inform residents of the work undertaken by the Service.

RESOLVED

(1) that, with the exception of Councillor Spencer who requested his abstention from voting be recorded, all members attending the meeting approved the following:

(a) the capital budgets for each of the financial years 2009/2010 to 2011/2012 as set out in the report;

(b) the revenue budgets for each of the financial years 2009/2010 to 2011/2012 as set out in the report;

(c) the following levels of Council Tax for 2009/2010:

	£
Band A	45.15
Band B	52.68
Band C	60.20
Band D	67.73
Band E	82.78
Band F	97.83
Band G	112.88
Band H	135.46

(d) the precept figure of £22,312,275 be applied to the whole of the City and District Council areas as general expenses;

(2) that the precept for 2009/2010 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.

80 LOCAL DETERMINATION REGIME

Consideration was given to a report of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer, copies of which had been circulated.

The Clerk requested that the Authority note that within Appendix A, the 'Assessment Sub Committee' box should conclude as follows:

‘at a national level, or accept a no breach finding.’

RESOLVED

- (1) that the number of members on the Standards Committee be increased from four to six, to include two independent members and four elected members;**
- (2) that the elected membership be comprised of one Labour, one Conservative, one Liberal Democrat and one other elected member of the Authority;**
- (3) that the appointment of Councillor Lally as the fourth elected member of the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2008/09 be approved;**
- (4) that the Clerk and Monitoring Officer be authorised to advertise and interview for any vacancies in respect of independent members, with any subsequent recommendation regarding appointment being submitted to the full Fire Authority;**
- (5) that the Assessment Sub Committee, the Review Sub Committee and the Hearings Sub Committee all be established, with the terms of reference set out in the body of the report, each to be made up of three members and to be chaired by an independent member.**

81 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

Further to minute 67 dated 22 February 2008, consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that the payment of Members’ Allowances under the scheme for the financial year commencing 1 April 2009, be approved.

82 FUTURE SERVICE DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, presenting the proposed final agreement with the Fire Brigades Union on revised arrangements for the provision of operational cover by whole-time personnel.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the proposed collective agreement set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved;**
- (2) that the Chief Fire Officer be authorised to sign off the formal agreement with the trade union;**
- (3) that the continuation of the task and finish group to monitor the impact of the revised arrangements and to ensure a smooth transition, be acknowledged;**
- (4) that the Chair’s thanks be recorded to the FBU officers and members of the management team who were involved in discussion and negotiation to achieve the agreement.**

83 POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Consideration was given to a report of the Chair of the Policy and Strategy Committee, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report and the business undertaken by the Policy and Strategy Committee, be noted.

84 HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Consideration was given to a report of the Chair of the Human Resources Committee, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report and the business undertaken by the Human Resources Committee, be noted.

85 FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Consideration was given to a report of the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report and the business undertaken by the Finance and Resources Committee, be noted.

86 COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Consideration was given to a report of the Chair of the Community Safety Committee, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report and the business undertaken by the Community Safety Committee, be noted.

87 PERFORMANCE MONITORING COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Consideration was given to a report of the Chair of the Performance Monitoring Committee, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report and the business undertaken by the Performance Monitoring Committee, be noted.