



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Report of the Chair of the Policy and Strategy Committee

Agenda No:

Date: 18 December 2009

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members the business and actions of the Policy and Strategy Committee meeting of Friday 30 October 2009.

CONTACT OFFICER

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1. BACKGROUND

As part of the revised Governance arrangements the Authority has delegated key responsibilities for policy and strategy to the Policy and Strategy Committee. As part of those delegated responsibilities, the Chair of the Policy and Strategy 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 Policy and Strategy Committee meeting of Friday 30 October 2009 are attached to this report at Appendix A. The following summarises the main points of the papers discussed at the meeting.
- 2.2 The Committee were in receipt of four reports, the first of which presented to Members the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service response to the Communities and Local Government (CLG) consultation on the Fire and Resilience Programme In-Service Management proposals. Members raised concerns about possible escalating costs in the future when the Government ceased to underwrite costs and the need to maintain some control. Members were assured that the position was being monitored vigorously and that CLG was being challenged at every stage about the proposals. It was resolved that the response be noted.
- 2.3 A further report presented to the Committee sought the approval of Members to establish whether there is a full business case for the formation of an arms length company in response to Fire Service Circular 61/2009 from Communities and Local Government (CLG) which will enable the Authority to continue to trade in Fire Extinguisher Maintenance and Commercial Training. It was resolved that that a full business case be developed for the creation of an arms length company and presented to the Fire Authority with recommendations at its meeting on 18 December 2009; and that Councillor Pettengell join Neil Timms and other Officers in preparing the scoping exercise for the full business case.
- 2.4 The Committee were then asked to consider excluding the public from the meeting during consideration of the remaining two items, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the basis that, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. This was agreed and the Committee went on to consider the remaining reports regarding the Organisational Assessment and Chief Fire Officer – Benchmarking Report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications were considered as part of the original reports submitted to the Policy and Strategy Committee.

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 Policy and Strategy Committee.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial equality impact assessment has identified no specific aspects relating to a disproportionate effect in respect of the key equality strands.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

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

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Service's performance in relation to matters addressed through Policy and Strategy Committee is scrutinised through a range of audit processes. The Service needs to continue to perform well in these areas as external scrutiny through Comprehensive Performance Assessment and auditors' judgement is key to future Service delivery.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report and the business undertaken by the Policy and Strategy Committee.

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

None.

Councillor Darrell Pulk
CHAIR OF POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

FOR NOTE



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

POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **30 OCTOBER 2009** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters,
Bestwood Lodge from 10.00 am to 11.00 am.

Membership

Councillor D Pulk (Chair)
Councillor B Cooper
Councillor T Pettengell
Councillor K Rigby
Councillor M Wood
Councillor M Wright

Members absent are marked ^

Also present as an observer

Councillor J Hemsall

8 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Andrew Beale and the Head of Finance and Resources, Neil Timms both declared personal and prejudicial interests in agenda item 8 - Chief Fire Officer- bench marking report (minute 14) and left the room during discussion of that item.

9 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 31 July 2009, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

10 CONSULTATION ON THE FIRE AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME IN-SERVICE MANAGEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, presenting the Service's response to the Communities and Local Government (CLG) consultation on the Fire and Resilience Programme In-Service Management proposals. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the CLG was driving the national management of contracts process and the influence over the contracts was miniscule. In response to members' concerns about possible escalating costs in the future when the Government ceased to underwrite costs and the need to maintain some control, he assured members that the position was being monitored vigorously and the CLG was being challenged at every stage about the proposals. Other discussions included the 120 staff at the new Regional Control Centre (RCC) and the level of Human Resources support required and the cost flow between the RCC and the five East Midlands Fire and Rescue Authorities.

RESOLVED that the response from Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service to the consultation process be noted.

11 CREATION OF ARMS LENGTH COMPANY

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the case for the possible establishment of an arms length company in response to Fire Service Circular 61/2009 from Communities and Local Government (CLG) which would enable the Authority to continue to trade in Fire Extinguisher Maintenance and Commercial Training.

RESOLVED

- (1) that a full business case be developed for the creation of an arms length company and submitted to the Fire Authority with recommendations at its meeting on 18 December 2009;**
- (2) that Councillor Pettengell join the Head of Finance and Resources and other officers in preparing the scoping exercise for the full business case.**

12 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the remaining items on the agenda in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the basis that, 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 Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

13 ORGANISATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, enclosing the draft contents of the 2009 Performance Assessment

of the Fire and Rescue Authority. The Head of Finance and Resources outlined the work which had been undertaken since the assessment, particularly in the areas of community safety, IT and diversity and equality.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the contents of the Organisational Assessment be noted and the report be submitted to Fire Authority members prior to the full Fire Authority meeting on 18 December 2009;**
- (2) that the officers prepare a message for distribution to all Fire Authority staff expressing the thanks of members and management for all the hard work undertaken to gain a satisfactory assessment.**

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Andrew Beale and the Head of Finance and Resources, Neil Timms left the room for the following item.

14 CHIEF FIRE OFFICER – BENCHMARKING REPORT

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

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Clerk and Treasurer undertake a review in accordance with the Guidance set out in appendix A and report back to the meeting of the Fire Authority on 18 December 2009;**
- (2) that the report to the Fire Authority should include the financial implications of any recommendations.**