



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Report of the Chair of the
Finance and Resources Committee

Agenda No:

Date: 24 February 2012

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members on the business and actions of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting of Friday 13 January 2012.

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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 Finance and Resources Committee held on Friday 13 January 2012 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 firstly asked to consider a report proposing options for the recommendation of a balanced revenue budget over the next three years, to the Fire and Rescue Authority. It was resolved that:
- (1) that the provision of public consultation mechanisms regarding the budget proposals and options for council tax, on a cost neutral basis, be further investigated by the Strategic Director of Finance;
 - (2) that the Fire and Rescue Authority consider the strategy of using balances to both fund the capital programme and to make advance payments of MRP in order to reduce future revenue obligations;
 - (3) that the three options set out in paragraph 2.86 of the report be submitted to the Fire Authority for consideration in setting a budget for 2012/13 to 2014/15 and precept and council tax for 2012/13.
- 2.3 In addition to a report advising on the annual efficiency savings achieved during 2010/2011 and reporting on the total savings achieved throughout the three year Comprehensive Spending Review period, the Committee also gave consideration to three monitoring reports, providing information up to 30 November 2011. Namely:
- Prudential Code Monitoring;
 - Capital Budget Monitoring;
 - Revenue Budget Monitoring.

It was resolved that all four reports be noted and in the case of the Prudential Monitoring report, it was further resolved that the Treasurer consider the adequacy of the prudential guidelines with a view to adjusting these to prevent the target outlined in the report being breached by the Authority's current policy of not borrowing.

- 2.4 The performance of the Trading Company and guidance for directors was the subject of another report presented to the Committee. It was resolved that the directors of the Trading Company be notified that there was no expectation for profits to be distributed as dividends in the current year and

that they be retained within the business. Additionally, it was resolved that the Fire and Rescue Authority be requested to consider nominating members to the two director vacancies of the Trading Company.

2.5 In moving on to the remaining reports, the Chair of the Committee was of the opinion that the remaining two items, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100 (b) (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972. Consideration was then given to a report seeking approval to the proposed remedial works to electric gates on Fire Service premises. It was resolved that in the light of the health and safety risk assessments, the expenditure on the remedial works to the electric gates be approved.

2.6 The final report provided details of the potential lease to Nottinghamshire Police of Clifton Community Centre at Farnborough Road. It was resolved that Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service vacate the building and lease the ground floor of the Clifton building to Nottinghamshire Police based on the terms set out in the report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

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. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because this report is not associated with a policy, function or service. Its purpose is to update the Fire Authority on the outcomes of Committee business.

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

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.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

None.

Councillor Steve Carroll
CHAIR OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

FOR NOTE



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

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **13 JANUARY 2012** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge from 10.00 am to 11.29 am.

Membership

Councillor S Carroll (Chair)
Councillor B Cross
Councillor E Kerry
Councillor K Girling
Councillor D Smith

Members absent are marked ^

Present as observers – Councillor Rigby (minute 24-29 inclusive) and Councillor Pulk

24 TRIBUTE TO COUNCILLOR PETTENGELL

It was with sadness that the Chair informed the Committee that Councillor Pettengell had passed away. As a valued member of the Authority, Councillor Pettengell had been passionate about the Fire and Rescue Service and had visited most, if not all of the County's Fire Stations and met with staff. Instead of floral tributes, Councillor Pettengell had specifically requested that donations be made to the FireFighter's Charity. It was proposed that a minutes silence be observed at the next full Fire and Rescue Authority meeting.

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Aware that an urgent item may be accepted by the Chair, Councillor Kerry declared a personal interest in the proposed item, 'Report on Property Options and Lease for Clifton Community Centre', insofar as he was a County Council nominated member of the Nottinghamshire Police Authority. This did not preclude him from speaking or voting.

26 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 9 December 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

27 BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2012/13 TO 2014/15 AND OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TAX

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, proposing options for the recommendation of a balanced revenue budget over the next three years, to the Fire and Rescue Authority.

There was no statutory requirement for the Authority to consult council tax payers specifically on these issues but extensive consultation was undertaken in regard to general budgetary matters and the Fire Cover Review.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the provision of public consultation mechanisms regarding the budget proposals and options for council tax, on a cost neutral basis, be further investigated by the Strategic Director of Finance;**
- (2) that the Fire and Rescue Authority consider the strategy of using balances to both fund the capital programme and to make advance payments of MRP in order to reduce future revenue obligations;**
- (3) that the three options set out in paragraph 2.86 of the report be submitted to the Fire Authority for consideration in setting a budget for 2012/13 to 2014/15 and precept and council tax for 2012/13.**

28 CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 30 NOVEMBER 2011

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, reporting on Capital Programme progress in the year 2011/12 to the end of November 2011. The capital budget monitoring statement was showing an underspend to date of £2,411,000 against a budget for the year of £4,349,000. The budget for the year included slippage of £1,545,000 brought forward from 2010/11.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

29 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT TO 30 NOVEMBER 2011

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, reporting on the financial performance of the Service in the year 2011/12 to the end November 2011. The budget monitoring statement for November 2011 was showing an underspend to date of £1,372,000.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

30 EFFICIENCY SAVINGS

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, advising on the Annual Efficiency savings achieved during 2010/11 and

reporting on the total savings achieved throughout the three year Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 period.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

31 PRUDENTIAL CODE MONITORING REPORT TO 30 NOVEMBER 2011

Consideration was given to the report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, giving details of performance up to 30 November 2011 relating to the prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted;**
- (2) that the Treasurer consider the adequacy of the prudential guidelines with a view to adjusting these to prevent the target in 2.7 of the report being breached by the Authority's current policy of not borrowing.**

32 PERFORMANCE OF THE TRADING COMPANY AND GUIDANCE FOR DIRECTORS

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, reporting on the performance of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (Trading) Limited (the Trading Company) The latest half year financial report of the Trading Company showed that the company's profit before taxation for the half year to 30 September 2011 was £27,000 and that the trading outlook was positive. However, as the Trading Company was still relatively immature, looking for a dividend declaration at such an early stage may be unhelpful to the long term stability of the company.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Directors of the Trading Company be notified that there was no expectation for profits to be distributed as dividends in the current year and that they be retained within the business;**
- (2) that the Fire and Rescue Authority be requested to consider nominating members to the two Director vacancies of the Trading Company.**

33 REPORT ON PROPOSED REMEDIAL WORKS TO ELECTRIC GATES

The Chair of the meeting was of the opinion that this item, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100 (b) (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the special circumstances that, due to the health and safety implications, action was required prior to the next meeting of the Committee, but relevant information had not been available prior to publication of the agenda.

Further to minute 23 dated 9 December 2011, consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, seeking approval to the proposed remedial works to electric gates on Fire Service premises. A General Safety Notice (OPSTD 1-2011) was issued in January 2011 targeting commercial owners of properties with powered perimeter gates outlining actions required to fulfil legal duties

under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and other related regulations. The Notice set out the specific actions recommended.

The Health and Safety Risk Management Section had individually risk assessed each gate installation to identify which additional controls that had been recommended were essential to maintain both reliability and safety of each installation.

The risk management approach meant that only the remedial work essential for safety was proposed to be carried out.

The virement required to carry out the work had already been approved.

RESOLVED that in the light of the Health and Safety Risk Assessments, the expenditure on the remedial works to the electric gates be approved.

34 REPORT ON PROPERTY OPTIONS AND LEASE FOR CLIFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Chair of the meeting was of the opinion that this item, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100 (b) (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the special circumstances that the Nottinghamshire Police required a decision prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee otherwise the opportunity to achieve collaborative savings may be lost.

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, giving details of the potential lease to Nottinghamshire Police of Clifton Community Centre at Farnborough Road.

It was noted that the centre would still be of benefit to the community.

RESOLVED that Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service vacate the building and lease the ground floor of the Clifton Building to Nottinghamshire Police based on the terms set out in paragraph 2.43 of the report.