



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

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **8 APRIL 2011** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, from 10.00 am to 10.48 am.

Membership

	Councillor S Fielding	(Chair)
^	Councillor B Cooper	
	Councillor B Grocock	
^	Councillor J Hemsall	
^	Councillor J Zadrozny	
	Councillor V Dobson	(substitute for Councillor Hemsall)
	Councillor K Girling	(substitute for Councillor Cooper)

Members absent are marked ^

18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence was received from Councillors Cooper, Hemsall and Zadrozny

19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

20 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 January 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

21 INVESTIGATION OF FATAL FIRES IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, providing details of the work undertaken after a fatal incident in terms of investigation, profiling of the casualty and determining the causes of fire.

In the presentation which followed, Councillors were shown pictures taken at the scene of fatalities which had occurred over the previous 12 months. The importance of exchanging information between partner agencies was emphasised as this enabled profiles to be produced of those most likely to be killed or seriously injured in fires. The latest data and intelligence suggested that those most at risk were individuals: over 55 years of age, known to partner agencies, having mental or physical health issues, alcoholic or regularly abusing alcohol, smokers, living alone, and living mainly in one room in their home.

At every incident involving a fatality, a full investigation was undertaken involving experienced Fire Investigation Officers and Police Crime Scene Investigators to enable comprehensive reports to be produced for HM Coroner.

With the development of a new Vulnerable Persons Policy it was hoped to ensure that partner agencies would refer more of those who were at high risk in terms of the profiling data. The identification of the profile of those most at risk from death or serious injury from fire was a key strand to the strategy utilised to target resources and reduce risk within the community.

RESOLVED that the work undertaken by the Arson Task Force be endorsed and support of the profiling activity undertaken within the Service be continued.

22 REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER 2005 - ENFORCEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, updating the Committee on the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO) which covered non-domestic premises. Article 26 of the FSO required every enforcing authority to enforce the provisions of the Order and any regulations made under it. Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) had adopted the central and local Government Concordat on Good Enforcement and committed to principles which would contribute best value.

Enforcement of the FSO was a critical element of the Authority's Community Safety Plan and the Authority's strategy for the enforcement of fire safety formed a key part of its overall strategy for the protection of communities. The FSO made a number of powers available to an inspector for carrying out the Order. These included the power to enter premises, to make enquiries, to require production of information and records, to take copies of records and to require the person having responsibility for the premises to provide facilities and assistance to enable the inspectors to exercise their powers.

Fire Protection inspectors were empowered to serve a number of notices on the responsible person for premises to ensure the safety of the public. These included Alteration Notices, Enforcement Notices and Prohibition Notices. Ultimately, prosecutions could be brought for serious breaches of the FSO.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and support for fire safety and enforcement activities be continued.