



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

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **14 OCTOBER 2011** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, from 10.00 am to 10.55 am.

Membership

Councillor S Fielding (Chair)
Councillor J Hemsall
Councillor E Kerry
Councillor J Packer
Councillor J Zadrozny

Members absent are marked ^

Councillor B Grocock attended as an observer.

9 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

11 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 July 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

12 FIRE PROTECTION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, updating the Committee on fire protection activity.

Ian Taylor, Group Manager, Fire Protection gave a presentation on fire protection, the key points of which included;

- one of the principle aims of the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) was to reduce the risks of fires and other dangers without imposing unnecessary burdens and securing compliance with legal regulatory requirements was an important part of achieving this aim;
- the purposes of the Fire Protection Department included the enforcement of fire regulations in non domestic premises, advising on building regulations, reducing fires in non domestic premises and reducing unwanted fire signals;
- fires in non-domestic properties had reduced by 10% since 2009. There had only been 2 casualties in non-domestic property fires during 2010 -2011. Attendance at unwanted fire signals had reduced by 25.52% from December 2009 to the end August 2011. There were however, indications that the economic situation was impacting upon fire safety;
- enforcement activities included issuing notices of deficiencies, enforcement notices, prohibition notices and ultimately prosecution;
- the meeting was given details of a recent prosecution brought by the Authority for serious fire safety breaches at two hotels in Mansfield in relation to the inadequacy of fire risk assessments;
- the Localism bill proposed amendments to the restrictive charging regime in place for all fire and rescue authorities. This may give the opportunity to charge for attendance at false alarms if certain criteria were met;
- the department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) was currently consulting on extending the primary authority scheme to include fire and rescue services;

Councillors were in agreement that the successful Mansfield prosecution was an important one as it gave a strong message and it was important to get this message out into the Community. Councillors were strongly of the opinion that there should be a competency framework for individuals acting as fire assessors. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer was asked by Councillors to consider, and to report back to a future meeting of this Committee, as to how Councillors might become involved in lobbying in relation to certain relevant issues including this one.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Committee continue to support the activities of the Fire Protection Department.

13 PRINCE'S TRUST

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, updating the Committee on the progress of the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) as a delivery partner of the Prince's Trust Team Programme.

The Team programme was a 12 week personal development programme for 16-25 year olds taken from the NEET group (Not in Education, Employment or Training). Participants were involved in a range of activities carried out under the guidance of trained team leaders including a week at a residential activity centre, undertaking a project to benefit the local community using funds raised by the team, completing work placements and a team challenge.

The Team programme ran from locations in Mansfield, Worksop, City/Central and Sherwood.

NFRS had worked in partnership with the Prince's Trust as a delivery partner for the Team programme since 2001, delivering over 70 teams. NFRS had an average of 14 young people on a team with a retention rate of 80%. There were currently 4 Teams running across the City and County engaging approximately 50 young people.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Committee continue to support Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service as a delivery partner for the Prince's Trust.

14 DISTRICT INITIATIVES – INFORMAL REPORTING PROCESS

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, seeking approval from the Committee to continue with the regime of informal briefings from District Group Managers at the rising of the next four meetings. This would give Councillors a broad overview of the range of activities ongoing within the organisation at any time. The Chair confirmed that the invitation to the informal briefings would be extended to all members of the Fire Authority.

RESOLVED that informal briefings from District Group Managers be received at the rising of the next four meetings of this Committee.