



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

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date: FRIDAY 20 JANUARY 2012

Time: 10.00 am

**Venue: Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold,
Nottingham.**

**Members are requested to attend the above meeting to be held at the time, place
and date mentioned for the purpose of transacting the following business.**

Clerk to the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
Councillors, colleagues or other participants in meetings are requested to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest in any matter(s) on the agenda
- 3 MINUTES** Attached
Last meeting held on 14 October 2011 (for confirmation)
- 4 SPRINKLERS** Attached
Report of Chief Fire Officer
- 5 RESILIENCE AND SEVERE WEATHER** Attached
Report of Chief Fire Officer
- 6 SPECIALIST RESCUE UNIT** Attached
Report of Chief Fire Officer

If you are unsure whether or not you should declare an interest in a particular matter, please contact the Constitutional Services Officer shown on this agenda, if possible before the day of the meeting, who will provide advice in the first instance.

Any Councillor who is unable to attend the meeting and wishes to submit apologies should do so via the Personal Assistant to the Chief Fire Officer at Fire Services Headquarters on 0115 967 0880

Agenda, reports and minutes for all public meetings can be viewed online at:-
<http://open.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/comm/default.asp>

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**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.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Fire & Rescue Service

Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Community Safety Committee

SPRINKLERS

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

4

Date:

20 January 2012

Purpose of Report:

To seek approval from Members for the adoption of a position statement on sprinklers.

CONTACT OFFICER

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The sprinkler as a device to detect and control a fire is generally well-known although there are some popular misconceptions as to their operation, particularly with respect to the number of heads that operate.
- 1.2 Sprinklers have been incorporated in buildings for some considerable time and were originally seen and developed as a means of reducing fire losses to property and contents. Over recent years there has been a growing recognition of their use as a means to contributing to life safety which is recognised in current UK guidance to the Building Regulations.
- 1.3 The recognition of their contribution to life safety can be largely attributed to their good record in detecting, suppressing and controlling a fire to a much smaller size than would otherwise be the case without sprinklers. This advantage is first seen in increasing life safety outside-the room or compartment of origin. Now, with fast response sprinklers, there is evidence that even in the room or compartment of origin, persons are better protected with a sprinkler system.
- 1.4 A number of comparisons of fire damage with and without sprinklers have been made as a result of accidental ignition and malicious fire-setting. In general the extent of fire damage has been markedly reduced in sprinklered premises often to the extent that business can be continued the following day whereas the unprotected premises have been out of action for considerable periods or even permanently.
- 1.5 In Australian fire tests on a redundant sprinklered office building, it was found necessary to turn off the sprinkler system in order to allow the fire to develop in order to conduct the experiment. Even with the resulting increased fire development, the system extinguished the fire when it was turned on.
- 1.6 Similarly fire tests carried out by Greater Manchester Fire Brigade, which were recorded on video, demonstrated the dramatic effect of sprinklers in detecting and quenching fires.
- 1.7 The fire in the First Interstate Bank, Philadelphia USA, spread internally and externally from floor to floor until it reached a sprinklered floor. At that point, the operation of the concealed sprinklers stopped further fire spread. The advantage to fire fighters of having sprinklers in tall buildings was well, demonstrated by this incident.
- 1.8 Real fire data collected by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for 1999 showed that across all types of premises protected with a wet pipe sprinkler system:
 - 62.3% of reported fires were controlled by a single sprinkler head.
 - 96.3% of reported fires were controlled by 10 or fewer sprinkler heads.

- 1.9 A report published in 2005 by the NFPA based on the most recent data concluded – "... when sprinklers are present, the chances of dying in a fire are reduced by one-half to three quarters and the average property loss per fire is cut by one-half to two-thirds, compared to fires where sprinklers are not present ..."
- 1.10 Sprinkler systems have demonstrated their value in protecting life and property in industrial and commercial buildings for many years. The developments of sprinklers that operate at an earlier stage in the development of a fire have led to the introduction of residential systems designed for domestic dwellings.
- 1.11 Residential sprinklers can offer a broad package of fire protection for householders, which protects not only lives, but has the added advantage of reducing property and contents damage. Sprinklers can help to reduce the overall expenditure on fire, by minimising the cost of 'after care' for fire victims provided by Health Authorities and Social Services and achieve this by adding to the quality of protection the Fire Service provides.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 This report recognises the change in the recognition of such systems and the direct promotion of such systems at Ministerial level and more recently, within the legislature with the passing of the Legislative Competence Order by the Welsh Assembly which requires sprinklers to be fitted in all new residential accommodation.
- 2.2 It is recognised that in some circumstances a regulatory approach to the installation of sprinklers is prudent in order to protect certain types of building to ensure the safety of occupants. It also recognises the important role Nottinghamshire fire and Rescue Service has to play in proactively supporting the benefits of sprinklers within the community.
- 2.3 Residential sprinklers are individually heat-activated. They are connected to a network of piping which in turn is filled with water under pressure. When the heat of a fire raises the sprinkler to its operating temperature, usually between 57°C-79°C, a fusible link or glass bulb will activate only that sprinkler over the fire, thereby releasing water over the source of heat and walls, reducing the fire-size temperatures and levels of toxic gases within the room of origin.
- 2.4 The result is to keep a fire from reaching potentially dangerous and life-threatening proportions and giving early detection. Residential sprinklers operate automatically in the event of a fire, even if the householder is not home, releasing water directly over the source of heat and sounding the alarm.
- 2.5 They help to extinguish a fire, but should this not happen the system will control the fire and slow its growth and reduce smoke and toxic fumes. This means that the fire service will be faced with a less severe fire and much less

damage caused to the property. Most importantly the householder will have had time to escape.

2.6 The Service, through its Fire Protection Team, uses every opportunity to encourage the installation of such systems by designers, developers and building owners where there are clear benefits to life safety in the event of a fire. This is because sprinklers can significantly help to:

- Reduce death and injury from fire;
- Reduce the risks to fire-fighters;
- Protect property and heritage;
- Reduce the effects of arson;
- Reduce the environmental impact of fire;
- Reduce fire costs and the disruption to the community and business;
- Permit design freedoms and encourage innovative, inclusive and sustainable architecture

2.7 It is important that NFRS dispel and challenge the myths which have grown up around sprinkler systems over the years through various routes, for example:

- Myth – all heads go off together;
- Fact – only the sprinkler head(s) directly affected by the fire is triggered.

- Myth: - water from the sprinkler causes more damage than the fire;
- Fact – sprinklers attack the fire quickly and directly so less water is needed. As they also they operate the fire alarm, the flow can be quickly turned off when the fire is out.

- Myth: - a smoke detector will always provide enough protection;
- Fact: - operational smoke detectors do save lives, however they do nothing to extinguish a growing fire.

- Myth: - sprinklers go off accidentally;
- Fact: - the odds of winning the Lottery are greater than the 16 million to one chance of a sprinkler malfunction.

2.8 This report supports the adoption of a position statement by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority.

2.9 The purpose of providing a sprinkler position statement is to ensure that a consistent message is delivered from across all levels of the Service to internal and external stakeholders.

2.10 The general intent is to champion the wider use and installation of sprinklers in buildings and in particular where deemed appropriate in residential properties.

PROPOSED POSITION STATEMENT

- 2.11 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service consider that the installation of sprinklers, or other automatic water suppression systems, in buildings, whether commercial or residential, will have a significant impact on the reduction of deaths and injuries from fire.**
- 2.12 That sprinklers contribute significantly to the reduction of building, stock and equipment loss and business disruption as a consequence of fire.**
- 2.13 In particular for high-risk groups of the community residential sprinklers may be the single most significant means to achieve the reduction in accidental fire deaths and casualties in dwellings.**
- 2.14 That the Service encourages designers and companies to consider the installation of sprinkler systems and continues to work in partnership with other agencies to identify those persons or groups at high risk and to recommend, where appropriate, residential sprinkler systems.**
- 2.15 That the Service encourage designers and developers to identify and adopt the design freedoms which may be available through the installation of sprinkler systems which ensure an equivalent or higher level of safety for the occupiers.**
- 2.16 That the Service positively promotes and encourages the provision of residential sprinklers in new build private and public housing and commercial installations in commercial premises or public buildings**
- 2.17 That the Service continues to work in partnership with other bodies such as the National Fire Sprinkler Network, Residential Sprinkler Association and British Automatic Sprinkler Association to research and promote the use of residential sprinklers, seeking to influence their inclusion in appropriate legislative changes.**

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, however by supporting the recommendations Officers will actively pursue the spirit of the position statement which may create financial implications. Any future implications will be subject to a future report.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no human resources or learning and development implications arising from this report.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because this is not a function, policy or service. However, if the Service actively pursues the spirit of the position statement an equality impact assessment will be required. It should be noted that equalities considerations may form part of the criteria for the installation of residential sprinklers.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Fire Authority legal obligations in relation to statutory fire safety enforcement are well understood and outlined within the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the Fire Safety Order (2005).

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The recommendations contained in this report are consistent with the duties of the Fire Authority under Section 6 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to make provision for the promotion of fire safety.
- 8.2 Section 6(2) requires the Authority, to the extent it considers reasonable to do so, make arrangements for:
- (a) The provision of information, publicity and encouragement in respect of the steps to be taken to prevent fires and death or injury by fire; and
 - (b) The giving of advice, on request about:
 - (i) How to prevent fires and restrict fire spread in buildings and other property,
 - (ii) The means of escape from buildings and other property in case of fire.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members support the adoption of the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service sprinkler position statement and agree to receive future reports on developments in this area.

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

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Community Safety Committee

RESILIENCE AND SEVERE WEATHER

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

5

Date:

20 January 2012

Purpose of Report:

To provide Members with an update on resilience and severe weather

CONTACT OFFICER

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Following the fuel crisis and the severe flooding in the autumn and winter of 2000 and the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 2001, the Deputy Prime Minister announced a review of emergency planning arrangements. The review included a public consultation exercise which reinforced the Government's conclusion that existing legislation no longer provided an adequate framework for modern civil protection efforts and that new legislation was needed.
- 1.2 Following public consultation on a draft Bill from June to September 2003 and pre-legislative scrutiny by a Joint Parliamentary Committee, the Civil Contingencies Bill was introduced to Parliament on 7 January 2004. Its development was informed from the start by close consultation with key stakeholders in what was an open and inclusive policymaking process. The Bill received Royal Assent on 18 November 2004 and henceforth became known as the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (the "Act").
- 1.3 The Act is separated into two substantive parts:
- Part 1: focuses on local arrangements for civil protection, establishing a statutory framework of roles and responsibilities for local responders.
 - Part 2: focuses on emergency powers, establishing a modern framework for the use of special legislative measures that might be necessary to deal with the effects of the most serious emergencies.
 - The purpose of Part 1 of the Act is to establish a new statutory framework for civil protection at the local level. Local responders are the building block of resilience in the UK, and the Act will enhance existing arrangements by:
 - Establishing a clear set of roles and responsibilities for local responders;
 - Giving greater structure and consistency to local civil protection activity; and
 - Establishing a sound basis for performance management at a local level.
- 1.4 The Act divides local responders into two categories depending on the extent of their involvement in civil protection work, and places a proportionate set of duties on each. Category 1 responders are those organisations at the core of emergency response (e.g. emergency services, local authorities). Category 1 responders are subject to the full set of civil protection duties. They are required to:
- Assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning;
 - Put in place emergency plans;

- Put in place Business Continuity Management arrangements;
- Put in place arrangements to make information available to the public about civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency;
- Share information with other local responders to enhance co-ordination;
- Co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency; and
- Provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations about business continuity management (Local Authorities only).

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Category 1 and 2 responders are required to come together to form 'Local Resilience Forums' (based on police force areas outside London) which will help co-ordination and co-operation between responders at the local level.
- 2.2 As a category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) is a fully fledged member of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) participating in a number of relevant capability groups and chairing the CBRN and training sub group.
- 2.3 The risk assessment group (RAG) identifies which events pose the biggest threat to our locality; this helps to prioritise the work of the LRF and its capability groups and forms the basis of the community risk register. National risks are considered and risk assessments are reviewed by the relevant authority on an annual basis.
- 2.4 Multi agency plans are produced and a programme of testing and exercising plans is developed, activity is monitored by the resilience working group (RWG), the RWG reports to the LRF strategic group.
- 2.5 The LRF brings together category 1 and category 2 responders to prepare and plan for natural and man made events, the representatives of each organisation work together regularly and are fully aware of each others roles and responsibilities, this greatly assists multi agency working and our ability to resolve major incidents.
- 2.6 Two sites have been developed that can be converted into multi-agency co-ordination centres (MCC) at short notice, each site is equipped to facilitate multi-agency working and information sharing to assist in the resolution of and recovery from a major event.

- 2.5 Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, local authorities have the responsibility to promote business continuity. Each category 1 responder is required to put into place business continuity arrangements.
- 2.6 Business continuity management (BCM) can be divided into three main areas for planning purposes, loss of staff, loss of accommodation and loss of ICT. BCM arrangements within NFRS are co-ordinated by the Corporate Services department, but it is the responsibility of each department to produce appropriate plans.
- 2.7 BCM plans may be implemented for a wide variety of reasons and should always be a consideration when events are out side of normal operational parameters and likely to impact upon NFRS ability to deliver its service. BCM events can be as a direct result of a single no notice type event or a rising tide type event such as pandemic flu.
- 2.8 Flood and weather forecasting has improved in the last five years and the services provided by the Environment Agency and the Met Office provide up to date and relevant information available twenty four hours a day, seven days a week at the touch of a button.
- 2.9 Severe weather can potentially disrupt NFRS's ability to deliver its service, in the case of hot weather large amounts of resources can be tied up dealing with large numbers of secondary forest, grass or heath land fires, a shortage of water can compound the difficulties associated with this type of occurrence.
- 2.10 At the other end of the spectrum is cold weather, snow and ice can cause major disruptions to infrastructure and could have an impact on NFRS across all three elements of business continuity, loss of staff (unable to get to work), loss of accommodation (access could be difficult) and loss of ICT (power cuts).
- 2.11 With winter upon us and the likelihood of severe cold weather affecting or disrupting our service delivery, NFRS preparations are complete and plans are in place. This provides an ideal case study to demonstrate resilience activity to members.
- 2.12 The response risk specific plan associated with this type of event contains staff briefing notes, action cards, check lists and guidance to provide a flexible framework that ensures we can continue to deliver our essential services under any circumstances.
- 2.13 To assist the planning and preparation the areas for consideration have been broken down into the following:
- General;
 - Personnel;
 - Operational;
 - Media;

- Premises;
- Equipment;
- Recovery.

- 2.14 Staff briefing notes have been prepared to keep personnel informed and to provide guidance on a wide variety of associated issues, which includes driving techniques, vehicle routines, getting to work, work arrangements, winter preparedness and general guidance on preparations for travel.
- 2.15 Action cards offer considerations for implementation covering themes associated with severe weather including degradation, transport and stores.
- 2.16 Arrangements have been made with the highways department of the local authorities following last years severe weather event, this has led to routes to fire stations and fire station forecourts being added to the gritting routes providing safe access and egress from NFRS sites.
- 2.17 NFRS has a number of four wheel drive vehicles which will be utilised to support elements of the severe weather plan and will be held at critical locations throughout Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.
- 2.18 Lessons learned from last year's severe weather event indicate that availability of four wheel drive vehicles becomes limited due to demand, so plans have been established to lease additional vehicles in advance. These will be used to get essential staff to work and provide appropriate vehicles to meet the demands of road conditions for flexible duty officers, which will mitigate road risk associated with mobilising in severe weather conditions.
- 2.19 Specific protocols have been developed by stores for the provision of rock salt; there are six holding locations around the county to reduce travel distances, in the event of a period of sustained or prolonged bad weather leading to a transport issue.
- 2.20 Winter packs are provided by stores for the four wheel drive vehicles which contain a blanket, water, hot pack, de-icer and a shovel.
- 2.21 The Service will consider activating the incident support room to coordinate and manage logistics e.g. getting essential workers to places of work such as control staff, distribution of resources and personnel to maintain service delivery and to support the liaison with other key agencies.
- 2.22 The LRF has a severe weather plan and if deemed necessary will call a Strategic Coordination Group or Tactical Coordination Group to facilitate the prioritisation of activity and cooperation between services, to ensure that those most vulnerable in the community get the services and support needed at the appropriate time.

2.23 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service's severe weather plan is designed to ensure that the services legal obligations under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Fire Services Act 2004 and our commitment to community safety are maintained.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are costs throughout the organisation in support of resilience, however there are no new financial implications arising from this report.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service personnel may be affected by any disruption to service and human resources business continuity plans will be activated to mitigate the risks associated with severe weather, or any other serious event.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because this report is not a function, policy or service. Its purpose is to provide the Committee with an update on resilience and severe weather.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

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

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

As a category one responder Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service has a legal duty under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to have business continuity management arrangements in place. The Service also has a legal duty to comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Failure to consider potential risks that may affect service delivery and the consequential lack of pre planning would present serious risks in both legal challenge and also public reputation. The work of the Resilience Team and broader approach of the Service with regards to business continuity management significantly reduces these risks.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of the report and endorse the work of the Resilience Team.

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

- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Severe Weather Plan.
- Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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Community Safety Committee

SPECIALIST RESCUE UNIT

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

6

Date:

20 January 2012

Purpose of Report:

To introduce Members to the new Specialist Rescue Unit, its attributes and the value it adds to the Service.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Service has a duty to best serve the communities of Nottinghamshire and provide its staff with the equipment to undertake that role in a competent professional manner.
- 1.2 The Engineering Department, in partnership with Risk Response, follow a capital replacement programme to ensure that vehicles within the Service fleet are designed and fit for purpose, during their anticipated life time, which for some vehicles can be in excess of 12 years.
- 1.3 Each appliance is designed to fulfil its role and meet the challenges rising from incidents. Each vehicle, although designed for the role, has to have the flexibility to meet the needs of a changing horizon. This ensures that the most appropriate vehicles are added to the fleet.
- 1.4 The Specialist Rescue Unit was borne out of numerous years of research and development into addressing the needs of incidents which are out of scope, or require additional resources to those carried on our generic appliances.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The specification for the Specialist Rescue Unit was compiled through a mix of need and requirement: These included, above and beyond the operational need; safety implications, relevant legislation and ongoing costs of the unit.
- 2.2 The cost of this unit was accommodated from the vehicle capital replacement programme and delivered within budgetary constraints.
- 2.3 This report is compiled to inform Members of the role of the Specialist Rescue Unit and how this appliance assists in Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service meeting the objectives laid out within its Service Plan. Importantly, it also enables crews to respond to community needs with the appropriate resources in a safe, responsible manner.
- 2.4 The vehicle has been coach built on a Scania R360 chassis, which is twin rear axle and rear steer. The wheelbase is 4500mm and the gross weight is 16.3 tonne. The vehicle was built for the Service by Emergency One, Cumnock, Ayreshire.
- 2.5 The vehicle will be crewed by two dedicated individuals, but has capacity to carry four for resilience purposes. They will replace the current units and will be stationed strategically at Highfields and Tuxford Fire Stations, giving excellent cover to the whole of the County.

- 2.6 The vehicle is a multi role technical vehicle which will respond to specialist incidents including; heavy rescue incidents, those which are out of the scope of our standard appliances; animal rescues; rescues from height and water rescues. The team can also be called upon for their skills and the specialist equipment they carry, should an incident require them.
- 2.7 The vehicle has attracted interest from around the Country and has won a national award, given for the best designed operational fire appliance at the "Scottish Truckfest", August 2011. The appliance has also recently appeared on BBC1's "One Show" showcasing the appliance's unique facets and innovative approach to accommodating rescue and associated equipment.
- 2.8 The vehicles are now in Service and our staff are undergoing training. The vehicles are anticipated to be fully operationally available by 28 February 2012.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no new financial implications in this report as the vehicle has been purchased through the previously approved capital programme.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

The training for the above vehicle has been scheduled and is being undertaken, this will minimise the transition period.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

This vehicle has had an equalities assessment throughout the design and commissioning phase, with no adverse implications being identified.

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 from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The 2004 Fire Services Act, Section 8 and 9, gives the Service a responsibility to provide a response for road traffic accidents and other emergencies: The Specialist Rescue Unit assists the Service in meeting its

statutory obligations by providing the additional resource to help us achieve our operational aims.

8.2 As part of our ongoing strategy to minimise risk, the design of the unit includes the vital ergonomics of manual handling, through the safe stowage of equipment, by bringing engineered solutions and innovation.

8.3 The safety of the crews has also been accommodated, through the Service's drive to minimise road risk and provide the safest means of transporting our staff to and from incidents and whilst travelling on Service business.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report and recognise the benefit of the vehicle in assisting the Service to meet its objectives.

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

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

