



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

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **20 JANUARY 2012** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, from 10.00 am to 10.25 am.

Membership

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

Members absent are marked ^

Councillors Grocock, Pulk and Wheeler were in attendance as observers.

15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received. The Chair stated that she was saddened by the news of Councillor Pettengell's recent death and that a tribute to Councillor Pettengell would be led by the Chair of the Fire Authority at the next full meeting of the Authority.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

17 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 14 October 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

18 SPRINKLERS

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, seeking the Committee's approval for the adoption of a position statement on sprinklers. The report was introduced by John Buckley, Assistant Chief Fire Officer who made the following points:

- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (the Service) was positively promoting and encouraging the provision of residential sprinklers in new build private and public housing as a means of contributing to saving lives. This was due to the good record of sprinklers in detecting, suppressing and controlling fires compared to incidents where sprinklers were not installed;
- the Chief Fire Officers Association supported the proposal. The Chief Fire Officer had spoken out publicly in support of the proposal and the Service was anxious to both engage locally and join in the debate at national level. As a result, the adoption of a position statement was recommended. This would ensure that a consistent message was delivered across all levels of the Service to internal and external stakeholders.

RESOLVED that the adoption of the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service sprinkler position statement be supported and that the Committee receive future reports on developments in this area.

19 RESILIENCE AND SEVERE WEATHER

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, providing the Committee with an update on resilience and severe weather.

Dave Stevenson, Station Manager, delivered a presentation to the Committee which included the following points:

- the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) focused on local arrangements for civil protection, establishing a statutory framework of roles and responsibilities for local responders (Part 1) and 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 (Part 2);
- Part 1 of the 2004 Act established a new statutory framework for civil protection at local level. Local responders were split into two categories; Category 1 responders were those organisations at the core of emergency response e.g. emergency services and local authorities. Category 2 responders were other support services and utility companies;
- Category 1 responders were required to assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this information to inform contingency planning, put in place emergency plans and business continuity arrangements, make information available to the public about civil protection matters, share information with other local responders, and provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations about business continuity management (BCM);

- Category 1 and 2 responders were required to form Local Resilience Forums (LRF's) to help co-ordination and co-operation between responders at local level. Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) was a fully fledged member of the LRF;
- under the 2004 Act, local authorities had the responsibility to promote business continuity and Each Category 1 responder was required to put into place business continuity arrangements;
- business continuity management (BCM) could be divided into three main areas for planning purpose; loss of staff, loss of accommodation and loss of information technology;
- to assist the planning and preparation, the areas for consideration had been broken down into the following:
 - general;
 - personnel;
 - operational;
 - media;
 - premises;
 - equipment;
 - recovery.
- staff briefing notes had been prepared to keep personnel informed and to provide guidance on a wide variety of associated issues, which included driving techniques, vehicle routines, getting to work, work arrangements, winter preparedness and general guidance on preparations for travel;
- action cards offered considerations for implementation covering themes associated with severe weather including degradation, transport and stores;
- arrangements had been made with the highways departments of the local authorities following last years severe weather event. This had led to routes to fire stations and fire station forecourts being added to the gritting routes providing safe access and egress from NFRS sites;
- NFRS had a number of four wheel drive vehicles which would be utilised to support elements of the severe weather plan and would be held at critical locations throughout Nottingham and Nottinghamshire;
- lessons learned from last year's severe weather event indicated that availability of four wheel drive vehicles became limited due to demand, so plans had been established to lease additional vehicles in advance. These would be used to get essential staff to work and provide appropriate vehicles to meet the demands of road conditions for flexible duty officers, which would mitigate road risk associated with mobilising in severe weather conditions;
- specific protocols had been developed for the provision of rock salt. There were 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;

- winter packs consisting of a blanket, water, hot pack, de-icer and a shovel, were provided for the four wheel drive vehicles ;
- NFRS would consider activating the incident support room to co-ordinate 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;
- NFRS's severe weather plan was designed to ensure that the Services' legal obligations under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Fire Services Act 2004 and its commitment to community safety were maintained.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the work of the Resilience Team be endorsed.

20 SPECIALIST RESCUE UNIT

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, introducing the Committee to the new Specialist Rescue Unit, its attributes and the value it added to the Service.

Colin Poyser, in charge of the Specialist Rescue Team, advised the Committee that the specification for the Specialist Rescue Unit was compiled through a mixture of need and requirement. It would enable crews to respond to community needs with the appropriate resources in a safe, responsible manner.

The vehicle was a multi-role technical vehicle which would respond to specialist incidents including; heavy rescue incidents, incidents outside the scope of standard appliances, animal rescues, rescues from height and water rescues.

The vehicle had won an award for design and build.

The vehicle was expected to be fully operationally and available by 28 February 2012 following the completion of driver training.

Councillors and other attendees at the meeting were invited to view a demonstration of the vehicle at the end of the meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the benefit of the vehicle in assisting the Service to meet its objectives be noted.