



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

**FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

of the meeting held on **15 SEPTEMBER 2006** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, from 11.00 am to 12.25 pm.

**Membership**

Councillor J Cottee  
Councillor P Griggs  
Councillor J O'Riordan  
Councillor T Pettengell  
^ Councillor N Smedley

Members absent are marked ^

**1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Griggs be appointed Chair for the remainder of the municipal year 2006/07.

**2 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Smedley.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests were made.

**4 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 13 April 2006, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## **5 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **(a) Finance and Resources Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the additional term of reference for this Committee below, as agreed at the meeting of the full Fire and Rescue Authority held on 13 September 2006, be noted:-

**'To be responsible for the review and monitoring of the Statement of Internal Control'.**

### **(b) Audit Committee role**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated.

It was reported that the Human Resources Committee was investigating the training requirements of all Fire Authority members, appropriate to the Committee or Panel of which they were members. With regard to the Audit Committee function, it was stated that Nottingham Trent University Business School was considering the establishment of an audit-based training course.

**RESOLVED** that it be agreed that the terms of reference empowering members of this Committee to undertake the role of an Audit Committee, as detailed in the report, and a recommendation of approval of those terms, be submitted to the Policy and Strategy Committee.

## **6 COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CPA)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, which highlighted the main areas of the CPA that would be of concern to this Committee.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that the Chief Fire Officer be requested to forward a paper copy of the internal self assessment to members.**

## **7 CAPITAL MONITORING - PERIOD 2 ENDED 31 MAY 2006**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, which detailed spending with regard to transport, property and information technology (IT).

Mr Timms reported that there was currently an underspend of £2.085 million on transport, £2.995 million on property, and £1.435 million on IT, although these figures would be reduced as orders had been placed for 8 new appliances, construction of a new fire station at Hassocks Lane was due to commence in January 2007 and various IT projects had recently commenced.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the report be noted;**

- (2) **that the Chief Fire Officer be requested to submit a report, detailing capital monitoring during the period 1 June to 31 August 2006, to the October meeting of this Committee.**

## **8 BUDGET MONITORING - PERIOD 2 ENDED 31 MAY 2006**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, which detailed the financial performance with regard to whole-time and part-time pay, premises costs, operational equipment, supplies and services, operating lease payments, station budgets, annual pensions, trading activities and the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

## **9 PRUDENTIAL CODE MONITORING**

- (a) **January to March 2006 (4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2005/06)**

- (b) **April and May 2006 (1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2006/07)**

Consideration was given to reports of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the performance with regard to the prudential indicators for accounting and treasury management, as agreed at the full Fire Authority meeting held on 25 February 2005.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) **that the reports be noted;**
- (2) **that the Chief Fire Officer be requested to submit a report, detailing Prudential Code performance during the period 1 June to 31 August 2006, to the October meeting of this Committee.**

## **10 FLEET REPLACEMENT AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated.

Further to the report, it was stated that:-

- as part of the 2006/07 Transport Business Plan, the current and future fleet requirements with regard to pumping and special appliances, and light and other vehicles, would be ascertained;
- in response to the IRMP Best Value Review into how the Service responded to road traffic collisions (RTC), the next generation of pumping appliances would need to be rescue pumps with a dual function for fire fighting and RTC medium rescue capability;
- due to a lack of service support and parts availability, which caused an increased vehicle off-road downtime, the decision to switch chassis suppliers from Dennis to Scania had been taken, with delivery of the first chassis expected in November 2006.

**RESOLVED that the Fleet Replacement and Management Strategy, as detailed in the report, and a recommendation of approval of the Strategy, be submitted to the Policy and Strategy Committee.**

## **11 LAND AND BUILDINGS UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, setting out the current position with regard to the acquisition, disposal, construction and refurbishment of the Service's buildings and land.

Further to the report, it was stated that:-

- as a result of the planning consent to build the new community fire station at Hassocks Lane, the Service was working in partnership with the City Council to dispose of the land at the current Dunkirk fire station site;
- a suitable building had been found as a base for the Community Safety Team and the purchase was currently being processed by the Service's legal advisors regarding an existing caveat that would need to be removed or amended.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that the Chief Fire Officer be requested to submit a report, detailing the running costs of the Community Safety Team, to a future meeting of this Committee.**

## **12 VALUE FOR MONEY PROGRAMME - PROGRESS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, setting out the current position with regard to the Value for Money programme as agreed at the full Fire Authority meeting held on 24 March 2006.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

## **13 CAPITAL STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, which detailed the current position with regard to the Capital Strategy. The Strategy drew together information from the Capital Programme, the Prudential Code and the Treasury Management, Medium Term Financial, IT, Fleet and Property Strategies.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the Capital Strategy, as detailed in the report, and a recommendation of approval of the Strategy, be submitted to the Policy and Strategy Committee;**
- (2) that the following be supported:-**
  - (i) the undertaking of a feasibility study of the possibility of the Service entering into Private Finance Initiative contracts for the provision of fire stations and other buildings;**

- (ii) the over-programming of capital to ensure the capacity for investment was maximised;**
- (3) that the Chief Fire Officer be requested to submit a report, detailing the pros and cons of the use of Private Finance Initiative monies, to a future meeting of this Committee.**

#### **14 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

##### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that it be noted that, as agreed at the meeting held on 13 April 2006, the Committee would meet on Fridays 13 October 2006 and 13 April 2007;**
- (2) that the Clerk to the Authority be requested to investigate a suitable alternative date to the previously agreed Friday 12 January 2007, and inform members accordingly.**