



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

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of the meeting held on **13 OCTOBER 2006** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters,
Bestwood Lodge, from 10.02 am to 11.15 am.

Membership

	Councillor P Griggs	(Chair)
	Councillor J Cottee	
	Councillor P Lally	(substitute for Councillor O'Riordan)
^	Councillor J O'Riordan	
^	Councillor T Pettengell	
	Vacancy	

Members absent are marked ^

15 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair, with regret, informed the Committee of the recent death of Councillor Nellie Smedley, a member of this Committee.

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors O'Riordan and Pettengell.

17 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

18 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 September 2006, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

19 EXTERNAL AUDITORS GOVERNANCE REPORT 2005/06

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer, and to the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report (September 2006), copies of which had been circulated.

Mr Brumhead, District Auditor, presented the report and stated that although overall the Authority's financial governance was effective, of the 12 areas covered under the Value for Money conclusion, four required further evidence of improvement. These were:-

- (a) Performance Management - rated 'poor' in the 2005 Comprehensive Performance Assessment;
- (b) Data Quality - arrangements not robust enough at present;
- (c) Risk Management - further steps required, including the involvement of members, in assessing acceptable levels of risk;
- (d) Asset Management - records (such as the asset register) were currently 'not fit for purpose';

RESOLVED that the report be noted and submitted to the Fire Authority for information.

20 MONITORING UPDATES - PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2006

(a) Budget

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

(b) Capital

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, Head of Finance and Resources, reported that there was currently an underspend of £1.925 million on transport, £2.561 million on property, and £1.305 million on IT, although these figures would be reduced as orders in excess of £952,000 for appliances and equipment had been placed, planning permission had been granted for the construction of a new fire station at Hassocks Lane and a total of £997,000 had been committed for various IT projects.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(c) Prudential Code

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the performance with regard to the prudential indicators for capital accounting

and treasury management, as agreed at the full Fire Authority meeting held on 24 February 2006.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

21 EFFICIENCY GAINS MONITORING

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the background to the Annual Efficiency Statements and the current position with regard to planned efficiency gains for 2006/07.

Mr Timms, Head of Finance and Resources, reported that the Authority was currently achieving efficiency gains in excess of government set targets, but below the targets set by the authority itself.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

22 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the Treasury Management Policies, Plans, activities and results for the financial year 2005/06, in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Code of Practice on Treasury Management, which the Authority had adopted.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

23 RISK APPETITE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the factors influencing the risk appetite for the Authority, and providing guidance on an acceptable level of risk.

RESOLVED that, in view of the regulatory framework under which the Service operated, the Policy and Strategy Committee be recommended to adopt a low-risk appetite.