



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

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of the meeting held on **12 JANUARY 2007** at County Hall, West Bridgford, from 10.05 am to 11.10 am.

Membership

Councillor P Griggs (Chair)
Councillor J Cottee
Councillor H Holt
Councillor J O'Riordan
Councillor T Pettengell

Members absent are marked ^

24 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed Councillor Helen Holt to her first meeting of this Committee.

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

26 MINUTES

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

27 MONITORING UPDATES - PERIOD ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2006

(a) Revenue 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).

Mr Timms, Head of Finance and Resources, reported that although there was likely to be a large under-spend on budgets, due mainly to changes in Capital Accounting and under-spending in Pensions, the Authority would be on target for a minimal under-spend by the financial year end.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that the proposals for managing the forecasted under-spend of £1.708 million, as detailed in paragraph 3.2.17 and outlined below, be submitted to the Fire Authority for approval:-**
 - (a) cancellation of the earmarked contribution of £400,000 to the budget from balances;**
 - (b) contributions of:-**
 - (i) £325,000 to Balances to provide against unexpected events;**
 - (ii) £300,000 from the Revenue Budget to the 2006/07 Capital Programme, as an alternative to borrowing or leasing as a means of financing capital expenditure;**
 - (c) earmarked reserves of:-**
 - (i) £280,000 for any backdated Retained employee employers' pension contributions;**
 - (ii) £75,000 for professional development payments to operational employees;**
 - (iii) £200,000 for Community Safety initiatives.**

(b) Capital Budget

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 £2.341 million on transport, £1.994 million on property, and £715,000 on IT, although these figures would be reduced

as orders for appliances and equipment would be completed in early 2007/08, construction of the new fire station at Hassocks Lane had yet to commence and various IT projects were under consideration.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

28 URGENT ITEMS

The Chair of the meeting was of the opinion that the following items, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the special circumstances that members required the information prior to the Budget Seminar, to be held on 7 February 2007, and the next scheduled meeting of the Committee was not until 13 April 2007.

29 MONITORING UPDATES -- PERIOD ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2006

(a) Efficiency Gains

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 reported that the Authority was currently achieving in excess of government set targets and, should the predicted efficiency gains for 2006/07 be achieved, the three year target to 2007/08 would be met by the end of 2006/07, within two years.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

(b) Prudential Code

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing 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.

30 WORKING BALANCES

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the levels of reserves and balances to meet the requirements of the Authority during the 2007/08 financial year and beyond.

RESOLVED that the proposed level of balances, as detailed in the report, be submitted to the Fire Authority for approval.