



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

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of the meeting held on **19 SEPTEMBER 2008** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottingham, from 10.00 am to 10.35 am.

Membership

Councillor P Griggs (Chair)
Councillor B Cooper
Councillor P Lally
Councillor T Pettengell
^ Councillor M Wood

Members absent are marked ^

1 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Wood.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on **25 July 2008**, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4 EXTERNAL AUDITORS' GOVERNANCE REPORT 2007/08

(a) Governance Report

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, highlighting the findings and recommendations of the attached external auditors' Governance report for 2007/08. Members were given the opportunity of discussing the report with the District Auditor, John Cornett.

(b) Financial Instruments

The District Auditor raised with members an additional item concerning the Fair Value of borrowings whereby the use of Sector as opposed to Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) valuation methodology had led to the Fair Value disclosed in accounts being £409,000.00 less than if PWLB methodology had been used. The amount was not material and the balance sheet value of the Authority borrowings (as opposed to the fair value disclosure) was not affected. The difference between the two methodologies related to the use of either straight loan replacement or premature redemption calculations. It was anticipated that for 2008/09, clarification would be available over how Fair Value should be calculated.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Chief Fire Officer be requested to convey to staff this Committee's gratitude for this report;**
- (2) that the report be noted.**

5 RECENT EVENTS IN GLOBAL FINANCE – URGENT ITEM

The Chair of the meeting was of the opinion that this item, 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 the Committee needed to be made aware of how recent events in the global finance market had affected the Service.

Consideration was given to a verbal report regarding the impact on the Service of recent events in the global finance market was given by Neil Timms, Assistant Chief Officer and Strategic Director of Finance. The Committee was informed that a diversified portfolio would be maintained for the next few months in order to spread the risk of any of the financial institutions involved getting into difficulties. As this would result in a reduction of interest, the possibility of linking with other partnerships would be investigated.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Chief Fire Officer update this Committee at the next meeting;**
- (2) that the report be noted.**

Footnote

Next meeting dates:

24 October 2008 at 10.00 am

12 December 2008 – meeting cancelled

9 January 2009 at 1.30 pm, following a briefing and lunch at 12.30pm.

