



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

**FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

of the meeting held on **24 OCTOBER 2008** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters,  
Bestwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottingham, from 10.00 am to 11.17 am.

**Membership**

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

Members absent are marked ^

**6 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Wood.

**7 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests were made.

**8 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 September 2008, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**9 MATTERS ARISING**

**RESOLVED** that an urgent update from the Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting on 17 October be added to agenda item 6.

**10 CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2008**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, on capital programme progress during the current financial year to 31 August 2008. Members were given the opportunity of discussing the significant outturn variances and variations to the capital programme with the Head of Finance and Resources.

**RESOLVED**

**(1) that the following variations to the 2008/09 capital budget be approved:-**

<u>Capital Programme Project</u>	<u>Budget Including Slippage 2008/09</u>	<u>Variation to Budget</u>	<u>Revised Budget 2008/09</u>
	<u>£000's</u>	<u>£000's</u>	<u>£000's</u>
<b>Amendments to Existing Projects</b>			
SDC Smoke House	75	-75	0
Southwell Fire Station	200	-200	0
Stapleford Fire Station	200	64	264
Ashfield Fire Station	175	-150	25
West Bridgford Stores	33	2	35
Clifton Phase 2	75	-20	55
Warsop Fire Station	133	67	200
Mansfield Reception	42	-42	0
Essential Repairs	207	-115	92
Professional Fees	150	-80	70
Model Station Design	30	102	132
Worksop Fire Station	70	95	165
<b>New Projects</b>			
Newark Fire Station	0	66	66
Bingham Barn & Gym	0	165	165
Stockhill Fire Station	0	35	35
Headquarters Toilets	0	86	86
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,390</b>

**(2) that the report be noted.**

**11 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2008**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, on the financial performance of the Service in year 2008/09 to 31 August, with an analysis of the significant variances against the original budget.

The Committee was advised that the sentence in paragraph 2.2.1 regarding the support for the trade union officer was an error and should be disregarded.

It was noted that the report showed a significant underspend to date of £1,069k, 65% of which related to staffing budgets.

The report proposed virement of some of the available underspend to other areas to meet changing priorities.

**RESOLVED**

**(1) that virement from the budget underspend to the following projects be approved:**

	<u>£</u>
<b>(a) One off costs to upgrade Wider Area Network</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>(b) Service desk implementation by contract staff</b>	<b>65,000</b>
<b>(c) Internet web-site one off costs</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>(d) Redecoration of Fire &amp; Rescue Headquarters</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>(e) Implementation of Sharepoint Phase II business platform</b>	<b>60,000</b>
<b>(f) Transfer expenditure from revenue to the Capital Reserve</b>	<b>170,000</b>

**(2) that the Policy and Strategy Committee be requested to consider the criteria for funding community projects;**

**(3) that the report be noted.**

**12 PRUDENTIAL CODE MONITORING REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008**

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer to the Fire and Rescue Authority, copies of which had been circulated, and to a report from the urgent meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee on 17 October 2008, which was circulated at the meeting.

It was noted that performance during the reporting period to 30 September was within the prudential limits for 2008/09 which had been agreed by the Fire and Rescue Authority at its meeting on 22 February 2008. Members were informed that a cautious approach of lending only to institutions on the authorised lending list continued to be used although, during the current global economic situation, the Treasury Management Strategy was under constant review.

**RESOLVED**

**(1) that the reports be noted;**

**(2) that the Committee's appreciation of the efforts of the Finance and Resources staff during the unprecedented and difficult financial climate, be recorded.**

**13 HIGHFIELDS STATION UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing members of the progress on this major project.

**RESOLVED**

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

**(2) that the Chief Fire Officer arrange for members to visit the Highfields site to review progress.**

#### **14 SUSTAINABLE CAPITAL PLANS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, on the sustainability of the Fire and Rescue Authority's capital plans up to 2010.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the reports be noted;**
- (2) that the Committee's appreciation of the efforts of the Finance and Resources staff be recorded.**

#### **15 EFFICIENCY SAVINGS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, proposing the efficiency savings target for 2008/09 and detailing the progress of the forecasted efficiency savings outlined in the 2008/09 Forward Look Annual Efficiency Statement.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that a target of 1% of the 2007/08 baseline (£447,000) for efficiency savings in 2008/9 be approved;**
- (2) that report be noted.**

#### **16 REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX CONSULTATION 2009/10**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, detailing the budget framework and proposing a range of consultation options to Members.

**RESOLVED that, subject to the following, the arrangements for consultation on the proposed budget be approved: -**

- (1) the addition of Community Engagement to the examples of priorities on which efficiency savings could be used to bolster activities;**
- (2) prior approval by members of material to be used in the consultation.**

#### **Footnote**

**Next meeting dates:**

**12 December 2008 - meeting cancelled**

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