



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

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **9 JULY 2010** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge from 11.00 am to 11.50 am.

Membership

Councillor P Griggs (Chair)
Councillor V Bobo
Councillor A Foster
^ Councillor T Pettengell
Councillor M Wood

Members absent are marked ^

Present as observers – Councillors Cooper and Pulk.

1 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Pettengell.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 9 April 2010, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2010/11 - 2012/13

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, attaching the medium term financial strategy 2010/11 to 2012/13.

During a lengthy discussion the following comments were made:

- (a) Independent Trading Company (paragraph 4.13) – the Company had been formed, the Directors appointed and some awareness training undertaken. Discussions were being held with the Trade Unions regarding TUPE etc and the Company would start trading on 1 September 2010. There were currently no trainers and the Directors would decide what action to take;
- (b) Central Government Finances (paragraph 5.7) – the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review would be announced on 22 October 2010 when it was anticipated that the Service would suffer cuts in external funding of 15-20%, this possibly being a conservative estimate. This was by far the greatest issue facing the strategy;
- (c) Regional Control Centre (paragraph 6.11) – the Regional Fire Control Company had been formed and the costs would be transferred to the five authorities in the region. These would be determined by the Company and it was impossible to predict the impact on budgets until this was finalised;
- (d) Firelink (paragraph 6.10) – the contracts had been signed by the Department of Communities and Local Government but there was no indication of the costs to be transferred to each Authority.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2010/11 to 2012/13 be approved;**
- (2) that with regard to the costs of the Regional Control Centre to be transferred to the five Authorities, the Chief Fire Officer be requested to obtain a deal that was at least equitable and not more than this Authority's fair share;**
- (3) that the Head of Finance and Resources investigate with the Service's insurance brokers whether any insurance company would be willing to quote to cover the risk of early retirement by fire fighters through injury or ill health over a 5 year period.**

5 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated. The Treasurer pointed out the Auditors had been complimentary about the internal control environment, stating that the overall level was satisfactory and provided a good basis for effective financial and resource management.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Annual Report be noted and all staff involved be congratulated on their efforts;**
- (2) that the Head of Finance and Resources be requested to test the market to ensure that the fees being paid to Nottinghamshire County Council for the Internal Audit service were value for money.**

6 MONEY MARKET FUND INVESTMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, informing Councillors about the use of money market funds before using them as an investment vehicle for the Authority.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Head of Finance and Resources be supported in retaining money market funds as an investment option within the Treasury Management Strategy.

7 EXTERNAL AUDIT CODE OF PRACTICE

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

RESOLVED that the revised External Audit Code of Practice issued annually by the Audit Commission be noted.

8 FINANCIAL UPDATE TO 31 MAY 2010

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing Councillors of key aspects of financial performance in the first 2 months of the financial year. The Head of Finance and Resources confirmed that the capital works at Carlton and Tuxford Fire Stations were on target. With regard to Dunkirk Fire Station the legal case would now not be heard until early 2011. By the end of the month the Authority would have a QC opinion on its position which would be shared with Councillors.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the capital programme slippage of £2.924 million from 2009/10 into 2010/11 be approved.

9 CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY CONFERENCE 2010

Consideration was given to a report of the former Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED that the details of the above Conference attended by the former Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee and the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources be noted.