



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Finance and Resources Committee

FINAL NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL TAX FREEZE GRANT FOR 2011/12

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 1 April 2011

Purpose of Report:

To inform Members of the final amount of Council Tax freeze grant to be received by Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its February meeting the Fire and Rescue Authority approved the annual budget for 2011/2012 and indicative budgets for the following three years. Levels of Council Tax were also determined at this meeting.
- 1.2 Government had announced that those Authorities that maintained Council Tax at the same levels as 2010/2011 would receive a freeze grant to compensate them for not raising Council Tax.
- 1.3 This report sets out the final grant determination and subsequent actions required.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Prior to levels of Council Tax being set for 2011/2012 and beyond Government had announced that there was to be a Council Tax freeze grant to compensate those Local Authorities that set a council tax increase of zero percent. The grant notified to Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Authority at that time was £581,000 and this was built in to all the calculations around Council Tax , budgets etc.
- 2.2 There was no indication at the time that this figure was an estimate of any kind nor that it would be subsequently revised, however recently the Authority has been notified of the “final” grant figure. This is £579,814 which fortunately is not significantly different to the £581,000 previously notified (-£1,186).
- 2.3 Nevertheless this indicates that in future years this grant figure will have to be treated as an estimate rather than an absolute amount and the Authority will need to be prepared to make last minute adjustments to spending decisions. This is because the levels of Council Tax once set cannot be altered.
- 2.4 As the amount of the shortfall for 2011/2012 is quite small at £1,186 it is proposed to set this off against a surplus on the collection fund which was also too late to be included in the budget. This account is currently showing a surplus but can vary from year to year.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are set out in full in the body of the report.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications for human resources arising from this report.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

There are no implications for equalities arising from this report.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

In future years the Authority will need to be aware that the level of Council Tax freeze grant may vary and this therefore may present a small risk to the accuracy of the budget.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Members note the final amount of council tax freeze grant.
- 9.2 That Members agree to the shortfall in grant being offset against the surplus and deficits account.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER