



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

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **8 JULY 2011** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge from 10.00 am to 11.52 am.

Membership

Councillor S Carroll (Chair)
Councillor B Cross
Councillor K Girling
Councillor T Pettengell
Councillor D Smith

Members absent are marked ^

Councillors B Grocock, E Kerry, D Pulk and G Wheeler were present as observers.

1 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (a) **training/workshops in budgetary matters and financial processes would be available for members of the Committee. This would take place before the quarterly meetings, which would commence at 10.30 am to allow for this;**
- (b) **item 7 on the agenda had been withdrawn;**
- (c) **item 9 on the agenda was no longer considered exempt under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and hence the public did not need to be excluded from the meeting for consideration of this report.**

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 1 April 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

5 FINANCIAL POSITION REGARDING BUDGETS

Consideration was given to the report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, explaining to Councillors the current financial position of the Fire and Rescue Authority post budget, in terms of financial performance and risk exposures.

The Treasurer explained that the budgets for the years 2011/12 to 2014/15 were set at the Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on 25 February 2011 and that, following amendment, an alternative model was agreed to that originally presented by the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee. The original base budget anticipated for 2011/12 was £48.109 million. However, after taking into account all funding sources and a zero increase in council tax, the maximum allowable budget was £46.407 million, a difference of some £1.702 million which needed to be saved in 2011/12.

The savings to be generated for 2011/12 were broadly as follows:

Description	£
Savings dependent upon the Fire Cover Review	-357,219
Savings not dependent upon the Fire Cover Review	-1,480,721
Total savings	-1,837,940
Contribution to Fire Control Reserve	250,000
RCCO	2,514,000
Contribution from Balances	-2,628,188
Total	-1,702,128

These were set out in detail in the report in Appendix A.

The Head of Finance and Resources advised the meeting that the required savings were well on the way. The Fire and Rescue Authority had changed the way it procured goods and services which was resulting in savings. Vacancies were being held on the establishment. This would save on redundancies.

RESOLVED that the financial position as set out in the report be noted.

6 CAPITAL OUT-TURN FOR 2010/2011

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, reporting to Councillors on the out-turn of the capital programme for 2010/11 and seeking approval for slippage to be carried forward to 2011/12.

The Head of Finance and Resources explained that some projects had been delayed or were naturally spread over more than one year and required their budgets to be slipped forward into 2011/12.

Approval was sought to slip the following amounts forward:

Transport

	£
Rescue Pump Replacement Programme	299,000
Special Appliances	691,000
Small Vehicles	46,000

Property

Tuxford	14,000
Carlton	100,000
Blidworth	20,000
Battery Chargers	37,000
Occupational Health	6,000

Information Technology

Regional Finance System	72,000
HR/MIS Replacement	99,000
Business Process automation	145,000
CFRMIS Operational Intelligence	16,000

Total **1,545,000**

RESOLVED that the performance of the capital programme be noted and the slippage as set out above, be approved.

7 INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, bringing to the attention of Councillors a report prepared by the Estates and Procurement Manager, setting out his recommendations for investment in sustainable energy technologies and seeking approval for changes to be made to the capital programme to enable the Fire Authority to realise the benefits of such investment.

The Government offered initiatives for the production of renewable energy in the form of tariffs which could be used to offset the cost of energy usage and also allow surplus power to be 'sold' to the grid. Focus Architects had carried out a high level evaluation to identify the potential and suitability of the technologies and had concluded that on the 16 sites least likely to be affected by the Fire Cover Review outcomes, technologies such as photovoltaic cells (PV), wind generators and ground heat pumps were the most viable and had prepared estimates of the likely costs and paybacks of investment in these technologies.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the initiative be supported and £500,000 allocated in three tranches as set out in the report;**
- (2) that the Treasurer submit proposals for financing the project to the next meeting of the Committee.**

8 RESTRICTIONS ON TAX RELIEF ON PENSIONS

This item was withdrawn.

9 FLEET MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing the Committee of the results of a recent tendering process for the provision of fleet maintenance. The tendering process which had been followed was explained to the Committee, including the principal objectives of creating the contract, the outcomes expected and the evaluation of the tenders. Through evaluation and feasibility analysis the best and final offer accepted was from Nottingham City Council and the new arrangements took effect from 1 July 2011.

RESOLVED that the Committee note the actions of officers in entering into the contract with Nottingham City Council.