



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

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **7 OCTOBER 2011** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge from 10.05 am to 10.56 am.

Membership

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| | Councillor S Carroll | (Chair) |
| ^ | Councillor B Cross | |
| | Councillor K Girling | |
| ^ | Councillor T Pettengell | |
| | Councillor D Smith | |
| | Councillor G Wheeler | (substitute for Councillor Pettengell) |

Members absent are marked ^

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cross and Pettengell

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

12 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 8 July 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

13 PRUDENTIAL CODE MONITORING REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2011

Consideration was given to the report of the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, providing information up to 31 August 2011 on performance relating to the prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management and explaining the implications of a breach in one of the prudential indicators.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that no corrective action be taken in the immediate future to deal with the breach outlined in paragraph 2.4 of the report.**

14 CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2011

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, giving information on progress on the capital programme in 2011/12 to 31 August 2011 and analysing any significant variances against the original programme.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;**
- (2) that the financing of the Sustainable Energy project by capital grant be approved.**

15 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2011

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, providing information on the financial performance of the Fire and Rescue Service in 2011/12 to the end of August 2011 and analysing significant variances against the original budget. The Treasurer reported that the projected outturn variance for the year was an under spend of £1,867,000, of which £1,657,000 related to direct employee expenses. The Chief Fire Officer reported that a large part of this was due to the management of vacant posts pending the outcome of the Fire Cover Review.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

16 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, on the annual report prepared by the Fire Authority's internal auditors. The report was presented by Mr J Bailey of Nottinghamshire County Council, which provided the internal audit service. It summarised the reports issued in the 2010/11 financial year together with the main findings. The internal audit work completed during the year concluded that the overall level of internal control was satisfactory.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the thanks of the Committee to Mr Bailey for his attendance be recorded.

17 BUDGET GUIDELINES 2012/13 TO 2014/15

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and the Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated, requesting that the Committee set general guidelines within which officers would develop a detailed budget proposal for 2012/13 to 2014/15. The Government had recently announced plans to extend the council tax freeze for a further year. The Department for Communities and Local Government had indicated that it would shortly write to all local authorities with full details of the scheme, including the provision of an indicative breakdown of estimated grants to help local

authorities with budget planning. This would need to be factored into budget planning. To allow flexibility and for a full range of options to be considered, a broad range of budget options should be submitted to the Fire Authority in February 2012 for consideration.

RESOLVED that officers be requested to formulate detailed budget proposals based on council tax increases of 0%, 1%, 2% and 3% respectively.