

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE	
date	6 July 2007	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

FIRE EXTINGUISHER MAINTENANCE ENGINEER: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL POST

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the establishment of an additional (Fire Extinguisher Maintenance) FEM Engineer post. The resources to finance this post were made available during the 2007/8 budgeting process.

2. BACKGROUND

The Fire Extinguisher Maintenance Section is a profit making service which also makes an important contribution to fire safety (within public sector and other qualifying premises) by advising upon, supplying, installing, and maintaining all types of extinguishers, hose reels and fire safety signage. The service was established in 1980 and has grown to the extent where it now inspects and maintains over 25,000 extinguishers throughout Nottinghamshire and has a turnover of circa £250,000.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 The FEM Section has to ensure that every one of the extinguishers on contract is inspected & serviced by its due date. Schedules are frequently affected by difficulties in gaining access to certain establishments and other factors beyond management control.
- 3.2 Our engineers repeatedly come across instances where extinguishers have not been sited or maintained correctly by other service providers, and where the client has been charged excessive fees for supply / servicing. This highlights the value to the community of continuing this service.
- 3.3 The Service is therefore keen to expand its qualifying client base in order to raise the standard of protection and value for money within both the City and County.
- 3.4 Whilst the service is largely limited to the public sector customers listed in the Local Authority Goods and Services Act 1970 it is still possible for the volume of business to be increased significantly and indeed this has been consistently achieved.
- 3.5 A point has been reached however where the existing establishment of four engineers cannot continue this expansion.

3.6 The recruitment of an additional engineer would also ensure business continuity and development, thereby benefiting new and existing clients and helping to raise the overall standard of fire protection within the region.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The (Grade 2) FEM Engineer post falls within a salary range of £14142 to £16740 and would be subject to the usual salary overheads of National Insurance of Superannuation. These costs have been built in to the 2007/8 revenue budget.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

As a new post, the job will be advertised both internally and externally, in accordance with normal selection criteria. Job Evaluation is not required as this post is an increase in the numbers of existing posts.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial impact assessment has been carried out on the job description and person specification revealing no equality issues

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Failure to provide adequate levels of resilience could result in extinguishers not being serviced at prescribed intervals . Lack of investment in the FEM operation will stifle the growth of a valuable service to the community and reduce opportunities for income generation.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members approve the establishment of an additional post of Fire Extinguisher Maintenance Engineer

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

None.

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CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

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