

## report

meeting	<b>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>	
	<b>POLICY &amp; STRATEGY COMMITTEE</b>	
date	<b>4 August 2006</b>	Agenda item number

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

#### REVIEW OF STORES AND PROCUREMENT

##### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of the outcome of a recent review of stores and procurement carried out by First Procurement Associates (FPA) on behalf of the Regional Management Board.

##### 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 As part of the regional procurement workstream FPA were tasked with examining the arrangements across the region for the provision of Stores and Procurement functions with a view to combining these into a single unit if required.

2.2 FPA carried out this review and reported back to the Regional Procurement Board in May 2006. There are some matters of interest to Members within this report.

##### 3. REPORT

3.1 The report considers the organisation of procurement stores and logistics across the region and comments on the relative strengths and weaknesses of each Fire and Rescue Service's approach. The first thing it notes however, is that there is little consistency of approach across the region and that every Service does this differently.

3.2 The report itself brings out a number of areas of best practice across the region and highlights areas where it is possible for lessons to be learned. There are some areas however, which are of particular interest to Nottinghamshire.

3.3 The report is particularly complimentary in respect of Nottinghamshire, where FPA comment that Nottinghamshire is the only Service where procurement is managed as an integral part of facilities and asset management and is "particularly well managed as a commercial function". This comment is welcomed, particularly as managers and staff have worked hard over a number of years to professionalise this aspect of the Service and it is encouraging to see this recognised by the regional consultants.

3.4 FPA further comment that Nottinghamshire has a robust approach to environmental issues and product disposals again another area where management have been active in taking a multi-disciplinary approach to improving this aspect of service delivery.

- 3.5 The report comments that the Stores and Procurement functions are headed up by the Head of Finance and Resources and managed by the Procurement and Estates Manager and the Stores Manager. It comments that leadership is strong and that staff are enthusiastic, highly motivated and have a clear team spirit. It is perhaps unsurprising therefore that it is also noted that staff are pro-active in seeking improvements to the service and keeping up to date with relevant legislation etc.
- 3.6 FPA recommend that Nottinghamshire should seek to become ISO9002 accredited and that staff from Nottinghamshire should combine with those from Derbyshire to seek to raise standards across the region (Leicestershire to partner with Northamptonshire). It has since been mooted by Derbyshire managers that they might like to consider contracting their stores function to Nottinghamshire to run for them, although this has not yet been considered fully by Members in Derbyshire or indeed Members or managers in Nottinghamshire.
- 3.7 There are a number of issues raised in the report where improvements can be achieved by regional co-operation, particularly in the areas of clothing and uniforms, utility payments and estates contract. It is clear however, that Nottinghamshire already exhibits a number of these “best practice” aspects.
- 3.8 A virtual procurement team has been assembled by the Regional Project Board to implement the recommendations of the FPA report and a further report will be brought to Members once these proposals begin to be implemented.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The cost of the FPA report was met by regional funding and therefore there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 4.2 Clearly there will be long term implications from the implementation of the FPA recommendations as it is clear that these could result in a number of savings across the region.

#### **5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate implications for staff, although there may be some requirement for staff to help out in organising and/or training staff from other Services. The key message from the report however, is an acknowledgement of the quality of staff that Nottinghamshire have employed and the value of the pro-active approach to training and development.

#### **6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

A initial impact assessment has revealed no specific equality issues arising from this report.

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the contents of this report.

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

- FPA Consulting Ltd – review of Stores and Procurement Arrangements for the East Midlands Regional Management Board

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