



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

POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of the meeting of the held on **30 MARCH 2007** at The Council House, Old Market Square, Nottingham from 10.00 am to 11.15 am.

Membership

Councillor D Pulk (Chair)
Councillor B Charlesworth
Councillor J Cottee
Councillor S Fielding
Councillor P Griggs
Councillor K Rigby

Members absent are marked ^

26 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 22 November 2006, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made at this point. However, prior to the consideration of the item 12, Interactive Communication and Working, (minute 37) a declaration of interest was made by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, details of which are recorded in that minute.

28 TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED that the revised terms of reference for this Committee, copies of which had been circulated, as agreed at the meeting of the full Fire and Rescue Authority held on 23 February 2007, be noted.

29 LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER: 'STRONG AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES'

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, highlighting the main points of the Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities', and how it linked into the Authority's Community Safety Plan and existing interventions and activities.

It was reported that the Paper detailed the Government's aspirations to put community safety at the heart of the role of local authorities. The Authority shared the aspiration, and this was highlighted throughout the Community Safety Plan 2007-10 with the aim of the Authority spelt out in 'A safer Nottinghamshire by putting safety at the heart of the community'.

The Paper looked at how local authorities could best tackle social exclusion, deprivation and promote equality for all citizens, including vulnerable people and hard to reach communities.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Government's ambitions within the White Paper, outlined in the report, be noted;**
- (2) that, with regards to Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, the following be supported:-**
 - (i) the direction of the Authority with a view to meeting the expectations of the White Paper;**
 - (ii) the Authority's wider community safety agenda, to be included in future planning and policy decisions.**

30 COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: ACTION PLAN (NOVEMBER 2005) - PROGRESS

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, giving Members an update with regard to progress made against the planned activities contained within the Comprehensive Performance Plan (CPA) Action Plan, created and agreed with the Audit Commission in November 2005.

It was reported that the outcomes of the CPA would be received by the Authority during the week commencing 2 April 2007.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the achievements to date within the CPA Action Plan, as detailed in the appendices to the report (Themes 1-4), be noted;**
- (2) that the Authority's future improvements through the revised committee structures, including scrutiny to ensure service improvements were demonstrated, be supported and championed.**

31 IMPROVING SERVICE DELIVERY AND JOB SATISFACTION THROUGH CULTURAL CHANGE - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, which updated Members on the draft Cultural Audit report, arising from work undertaken by Opinion Research Services in October 2006 and considered by the Ad-Hoc Members Group on Equalities (AMG) at its meeting held on 16 January 2007.

It was reported that AMG would identify areas for consideration within the Authority's Change Management Process and make recommendations to the appropriate Committee/ Board.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the progress to date be noted, and continuation of the work, as detailed in the report, be supported;**
- (2) that the Deputy Chief Fire Officer be requested to organise Fire Station visits for groups comprising staff, trade union representatives and members, to discuss direction of travel with regard to improving service delivery and job satisfaction through cultural change.**

32 STATION COOKS

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, highlighting to Members the issues surrounding the provision of catering services and facilities across the organisation, and providing information on the national context and general direction of travel for provision of catering facilities at fire stations, including options for the future delivery of services.

RESOLVED that the Deputy Chief Fire Officer be requested to establish a Best Value Review Team, incorporating representatives from trade unions, management, end users and members, to undertake a review of the provision of catering facilities, including emergency catering facilities, and submit a report, detailing options for the future delivery of catering facilities, to a future meeting of this Committee.

33 FLU PANDEMIC: SERVICE PREPAREDNESS

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing members of the preparations made to reduce the effects on service delivery in the event of a flu pandemic.

RESOLVED that the progress to date, with regard to the Authority's readiness in the event of pandemics, be noted.

34 DISCRETIONARY COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, informing Members of the requirement to establish a Discretionary Compensation Payment Policy, under Regulation 7 (1) in relation to Regulations 5 and 6 of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations 2006.

RESOLVED that the Deputy Chief Fire Officer be requested to establish a Joint Working Group to consult on a Discretionary Compensation Policy, and submit a report detailing its findings to the meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority to be held on 29 June 2007.

35 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED that a provisional cycle of meetings for the Committee at 10.00am on the following Fridays be noted:-

2007

3 August

9 November

2008

8 February

36 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining item as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Act.

37 INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATION AND WORKING

Immediately prior to consideration of this item, the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Mr F Swann, declared a personal and financial interest insofar as he could potentially benefit from recommendations within the report and withdrew from the meeting.

Consideration was given to a report of the Clerk, copies of which were placed around the table.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the secondment of Chief Fire Officer Woods to the Fire Protection Association, commencing on 2 April 2007, be approved;**
- (2) that, with regard to the secondment referred to in resolution (1) above, the Clerk to the Authority be authorised to finalise and execute all necessary legal documentation on behalf of the Authority;**
- (3) that, with effect from 2 April 2007, Deputy Chief Fire Officer Swann be appointed Acting Chief Fire Officer.**