



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

POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **30 OCTOBER 2009** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters,
Bestwood Lodge from 10.00 am to 11.00 am.

Membership

Councillor D Pulk (Chair)
Councillor B Cooper
Councillor T Pettengell
Councillor K Rigby
Councillor M Wood
Councillor M Wright

Members absent are marked ^

Also present as an observer

Councillor J Hempsall

8 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Andrew Beale and the Head of Finance and Resources, Neil Timms both declared personal and prejudicial interests in agenda item 8 - Chief Fire Officer- bench marking report (minute 14) and left the room during discussion of that item.

9 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 31 July 2009, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

10 CONSULTATION ON THE FIRE AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME IN-SERVICE MANAGEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, presenting the Service's response to the Communities and Local Government (CLG) consultation on the Fire and Resilience Programme In-Service Management proposals. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the CLG was driving the national management of contracts process and the influence over the contracts was miniscule. In response to members' concerns about possible escalating costs in the future when the Government ceased to underwrite costs and the need to maintain some control, he assured members that the position was being monitored vigorously and the CLG was being challenged at every stage about the proposals. Other discussions included the 120 staff at the new Regional Control Centre (RCC) and the level of Human Resources support required and the cost flow between the RCC and the five East Midlands Fire and Rescue Authorities.

RESOLVED that the response from Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service to the consultation process be noted.

11 CREATION OF ARMS LENGTH COMPANY

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, regarding the case for the possible establishment of an arms length company in response to Fire Service Circular 61/2009 from Communities and Local Government (CLG) which would enable the Authority to continue to trade in Fire Extinguisher Maintenance and Commercial Training.

RESOLVED

- (1) that a full business case be developed for the creation of an arms length company and submitted to the Fire Authority with recommendations at its meeting on 18 December 2009;**
- (2) that Councillor Pettengell join the Head of Finance and Resources and other officers in preparing the scoping exercise for the full business case.**

12 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the remaining items on the agenda in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the basis that, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

13 ORGANISATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, enclosing the draft contents of the 2009 Performance Assessment of the Fire and Rescue Authority. The Head of Finance and Resources outlined the work which had been undertaken since the assessment, particularly in the areas of community safety, IT and diversity and equality.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the contents of the Organisational Assessment be noted and the report be submitted to Fire Authority members prior to the full Fire Authority meeting on 18 December 2009;**
- (2) that the officers prepare a message for distribution to all Fire Authority staff expressing the thanks of members and management for all the hard work undertaken to gain a satisfactory assessment.**

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Andrew Beale and the Head of Finance and Resources, Neil Timms left the room for the following item.

14 CHIEF FIRE OFFICER – BENCHMARKING REPORT

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Clerk and Treasurer, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Clerk and Treasurer undertake a review in accordance with the Guidance set out in appendix A and report back to the meeting of the Fire Authority on 18 December 2009;**
- (2) that the report to the Fire Authority should include the financial implications of any recommendations.**