



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

POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **29 JULY 2011** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge from 10.00 am to 11.05 am.

Membership

Councillor D Pulk	(Chair)
Councillor S Fielding	
Councillor T Pettengell	
Councillor K Rigby	
Councillor D Smith	
^ Councillor G Wheeler	
Councillor E Kerry	(substitute for Councillor Wheeler)

Members absent are marked ^

Councillors Arnold and Grocock were present as observers.

1 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Wheeler

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

3 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 18 and 20 May 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4 EQUALITIES REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, seeking approval of the Equalities Review and the revised objectives.

The Chief Fire Officer advised the Committee that, following the review led by the Equalities Officer, which had included consultation with external and internal stakeholders to ensure that a wide range of views were considered, a revised set of objectives and performance indicators had been developed and details were outlined in the review documentation attached to the report. In addition, the review had identified that the structure in place for governance and management of the equalities agenda was sound and that no changes were required.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the review attached to the report, inclusive of revised Local Performance Indicators and the revised objectives within the Equalities Action Plan, be approved;**
- (2) that approval to this approach be sought from the full Fire and Rescue Authority at its meeting on 16 September 2011.**

5 ICT UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, updating the Committee on the outcome of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership bid of £150,000 for transitional funds for a regional approach to ICT. The Chief Fire Officer advised the Committee that, on this occasion, the bid had been unsuccessful. Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service would now seek alternative ways in which to maintain and improve its ICT services whilst moving to reduce revenue costs. In the interim, the regional collaboration group would continue to work together to achieve as many efficiencies as possible through joint working.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the outcome of the bid for regional funding be noted;**
- (2) that the original recommendation of the report from 1 April 2011, which was not to progress the regional option on the basis of cost, be endorsed.**

6 FIRE COVER REVIEW – CONSULTATION PROCESS.

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, providing the Committee with information as to how the Fire Cover Review consultation process would be implemented. Given the scale of the consultation required, the Service had engaged Opinion Research Services (ORS) who had the required skills-sets to support the Service and who had worked with other Fire and Rescue Services across the Country which had engaged in wide ranging consultation over similar proposals.

Consultation would commence on 1 August 2011 and conclude on 23 October 2011. The results would be taken to the full Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on 16 December 2011. It was drawn to the Committee's attention that the process may be subject to judicial review which, if implemented, could significantly delay any implementation process.

The consultation process would use a number of formal methods to engage the business community, community and voluntary sectors, employees and their representatives and communities of both the City and County.

Methods to be used would include business breakfasts, stakeholder forums and focus groups. Meetings would be held to present the issues, allow for questions and answers and enable objections to be aired. The consultation document, 'Your Service - Our Vision', had been developed in-house with the support of ORS and posed all of the key questions that the Service would wish to engage with its stakeholders. There was a pull-out questionnaire to complete and return and this was also available for completion on the Services' website. Versions of the document would also be available in Braille. Copies would be placed in Council offices, GP surgeries, libraries and other public places.

In addition, the Services' Communications and Media Team would provide regular information in the form of briefing packs for Councillors, staff bulletins and public information via the website.

It was agreed that the Chief Fire Officer would arrange informal meetings with Councillors in September to review any trends being revealed by the results of the consultation as they were fed back.

RESOLVED that the consultation process and document put together to commence on 1 August 2011 to meet the requirements of engaging all stakeholders on the implications of the Fire Cover Review 2010 be noted.