



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

POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **28 OCTOBER 2011** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge from 10.00 am to 11.26 am.

Membership

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

Members absent are marked ^

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pettengell and Wheeler.

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors Pulk, Fielding, Rigby, Smith, Cooper and Kerry, the Chief Fire Officer and the Constitutional Services Officer declared a personal interest in agenda item 4, 'Pension Consultation', (minute 14) as they were all members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, but this did not preclude them from speaking or voting (where appropriate) at the meeting.

13 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2011, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

14 PENSIONS CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, giving details of the two current consultation processes relating to the Fire Fighters Pension Scheme and the Local Government Pension Scheme. The Chief Fire Officer explained to the meeting that the pension schemes in place for Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service employees were affected by the proposals put forward by the Government to increase employee contributions. Consultation on the Fire Fighters Pension Scheme and the New Fire Fighters Pension Scheme were due to conclude on 2 December 2011 and consultation on proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme were due to conclude on 6 January 2012.

It was not feasible for Officers to advise the Fire Authority on how to respond to the consultations as they had declarable interests in the consultation processes. It would be more appropriate for Councillors to form a sub-group to consider whether and how to respond to the consultation processes.

Concern was expressed by some Councillors as to the effects on the various schemes if the increase in contributions resulted in a significant drop out rate from one or more of the schemes.

Unison was currently balloting its members for industrial action on 30 November 2011. This would affect non-uniformed staff at the Fire Authority if it went ahead but the Business Continuity Management Team were monitoring the situation should the decision be in favour of strike action.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the two consultation processes taking place be noted;**
- (2) that a sub-group be formed, comprising the Chair and Councillors Rigby and Wheeler, supported by the Treasurer, to meet and formulate a response to the consultations on behalf of the Policy and Strategy Committee;**
- (3) that the potential impact of industrial action linked to the two consultation processes be noted.**

15 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining item 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.

16 PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated. The Chief Fire Officer updated the meeting on the final outcome relating to the property negotiation.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the final agreement be noted;**
- (2) that a special meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee be convened to discuss the various financial implications of either demolishing the buildings on the Site immediately or on the sale of the Site, and to report the findings to the Fire Authority;**
- (3) that a working party comprising members of the Policy and Strategy Committee, supported by the Treasurer and independent clerical support, be formed to discuss the terms of reference of the independent inquiry and to make recommendations to the Policy and Strategy Committee.**