



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

POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **2 NOVEMBER 2012** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge from 10.00 am to 10.35 am.

Membership

| | | |
|---|----------------------|--|
| | Councillor D Pulk | (Chair) |
| ^ | Councillor J Collins | |
| | Councillor B Grocock | |
| | Councillor E Kerry | |
| | Councillor K Rigby | |
| | Councillor G Wheeler | |
| | Councillor A Norris | (as substitute for Councillor Collins) |

Members absent are marked ^

8 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Collins.

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

10 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2012, copies of which had been circulated at the meeting, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

11 CONSULTATION WORKING GROUP

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, proposing a Member led task and finish group to establish a 'Consultation Framework' for the forthcoming integrated risk management plan (IRMP) process and in relation to future Fire Authority consultations generally. The report was introduced by John Buckley, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, who explained the specific requirement to consult in relation to the Fire Authority's IRMP. In addition to this, the Service would have

to consult the public on other specific aspects of changes to service delivery in future years. It was therefore, considered prudent for Members to agree a consultation framework with which Officers could operate to ensure all expectations were met.

In 2010, the Service had undertaken comprehensive consultation in relation to the Fire Cover Review as detailed in section 2.1 of the report. Despite this, and the engagement of professional support, the responses from the community were considered by the Fire Authority to be low. As a consequence, it was proposed that a small working group be formed to establish key priorities for consultation in a Framework that the Service could employ. It was proposed that the working group be supported by officers and some external expertise to offer advice on the Service's previous consultation and its effectiveness.

Formal consultation on the IRMP would need to commence in early spring 2013 in order for the new plan to be ready by January 2014.

RESOLVED

- (1) that a member led task and finish group be set up to establish a consultation framework. The group to include two Labour Members, two Conservative members, a Lib-Dem Member and the Independent Member;**
- (2) that the task and finish group report back to this Committee.**

12 CONSULTATION ON THE PROTOCOL ON GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION ACTION ON FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, advising the Committee on the current consultation to the Protocol on Government Intervention on Fire and Rescue Authorities in England and to agree a response on behalf of Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority. The report was introduced by John Buckley, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, who explained that the protocol set out the Government's expectations on the fire and rescue sector, indicating what circumstances might lead to intervention being considered and what might happen in the event of statutory intervention. To assist in the consultation, the document asked three key questions of consultees. A draft response to the consultation document was attached at Appendix B to the report for approval and/or amendment as required by the Committee.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the current consultation on the intervention protocol be noted; and**
- (2) that the proposed response on behalf of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority attached to the report be approved.**

13 CONSULTATION ON GUIDANCE ON STATEMENTS OF ASSURANCE FOR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, advising the Committee on the current consultation on guidance on statements of assurance for Fire and Rescue Authorities in England and to agree a response on behalf of Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority. The report was

introduced by John Buckley, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, who explained that this was a new requirement on Fire and Rescue Authorities and hence the reason why the Government was providing guidance on the nature of the assurance statements. The report outlined the key areas that the Government would see as part of any statement; finance; governance; operational and compliance with framework. A draft response to the consultation document was attached at Appendix B to the report for approval and/or amendment as required by the Committee.

Councillors felt that the response to Question 3 should be amended to give the message to the Government that other layers of bureaucracy should be being removed not added to. The Chair agreed that he would meet with the Chief Fire Officer to amend the response to question 3 and agreed to advise members in writing of the revised wording.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the current consultation on the annual statement of assurance be noted; and**
- (2) that the proposed response on behalf of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority attached to the report be approved save for the response to question 3 which the Chair was tasked with re-wording in conjunction with the Chief Fire Officer to request the Government to reduce levels of bureaucracy.**

14 CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION; FIGHTING FIRES OR FIREFIGHTING

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Fire Officer, copies of which had been circulated, to update the Committee on the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) publication and its contents. The report was introduced by John Buckley, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, who explained that on Thursday 20 September 2012, CFOA at its annual general meeting had released the publication 'Fighting Fires or Firefighting: The Impact of Austerity on English Fire and Rescue Services' The document was in response to the impact that grant reductions were having on the ability of fire and rescue services to continue to deliver service. The Chief Fire Officer believed that the document should be widely distributed to elected members of the City and County Councils, District Councils and local MP's.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the content of the Chief Fire Officers Association publication be noted; and**
- (2) the Chief Fire Officers strategy for circulating the document amongst Councillors and MP's throughout Nottinghamshire be noted.**