



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Policy and Strategy Committee

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE EFFICIENCIES REVIEW

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 01 February 2013

Purpose of Report:

To update Policy and Strategy Committee on the commencement of a Fire and Rescue Service Efficiencies Review.

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1. BACKGROUND

On 14 December 2012, Minister for Fire, Brandon Lewis, announced that Sir Ken Knight, the outgoing Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor, would lead a short review into the operational efficiency of the services delivered by Fire and Rescue Authorities in England. The review is due to take place from January to March 2013, with a final report presented to Ministers in spring 2013.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of the review will seek to identify the ways in which Fire and Rescue Authorities may deliver further efficiencies and operational improvements without reducing the quality of frontline services to the public.
- 2.2 Although not an exhaustive list, the review will examine options for savings both within and beyond the current review spending period including:
- Fire fighter training;
 - Flexible staffing and crewing arrangements;
 - The use of retained fire fighters;
 - Procurement;
 - Shared services;
 - Collaboration with emergency services and other organisations on service delivery and estates;
 - Sickness management;
 - Sharing of senior staff;
 - Locally led mergers and operational collaboration;
 - New fire fighting technology;
 - Preventative approaches;
 - Working with local businesses.
- 2.3 Sir Ken Knight will also be engaging with other key organisations in the fire sector, including the Local Government Association, the Chief Fire Officers' Association, the Fire Brigades Union, the Fire Sector Federation, individual Fire and Rescue Authorities, and other relevant partners.
- 2.4 In terms of visiting individual Fire Authorities, the following have been notified they will be visited and have shared this information;
- Bedfordshire;
 - Cleveland;
 - Cornwall;
 - Cumbria;
 - Devon and Somerset;
 - Essex;
 - Manchester (GMC);
 - Hampshire;
 - Humberside;

- London;
- Merseyside;
- Oxfordshire;
- Shropshire;
- Suffolk;
- West Yorkshire.

2.5 All other Fire and Rescue Authorities have been invited to have input and put forward their views via a dedicated email account.

2.6 Support for the review with regard to analysis and cross sector assessment will be provided by Department for Communities and Local Government.

2.7 Policy and Strategy Committee are asked to consider the implications and impact of the review and advise the CFO if they wish a submission to be prepared by the CFO and posted to the email account.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Although the review is aimed at efficiencies, there are no direct financial implications for Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service at this stage.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no human resources or learning and development implications arising from this report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Contributing to the efficiency review ensures that Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service reduces the risk of any report by Sir Ken Knight not acknowledging fully the efficiencies being carried out across the sector.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Policy and Strategy Committee note the review being carried out and advise the Chief Fire Officer as to whether they wish for a response to be submitted.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER