



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

POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Date: FRIDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2013

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottingham

Members are requested to attend the above meeting to be held at the time, place and date mentioned for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Clerk to the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
Councillors, colleagues or other participants in meetings are requested to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest in any matters(s) on the agenda
- 3 MINUTES** Attached
Last meeting held on 2 November 2012 (for confirmation)
- 4 CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK** To follow
Report of the Chief Fire Officer
- 5 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE EFFICIENCIES REVIEW** Attached
Report of the Chief Fire Officer

IF YOU ARE UNSURE WHETHER OR NOT YOU SHOULD DECLARE AN INTEREST IN A PARTICULAR MATTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONSTITUTIONAL SERVICES OFFICER SHOWN ON THIS AGENDA, IF POSSIBLE BEFORE THE DAY OF THE MEETING, WHO WILL PROVIDE ADVICE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE

**ANY COUNCILLOR WHO IS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING AND WISHES TO
SUBMIT APOLOGIES SHOULD DO SO VIA THE PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AT FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS ON 0115 967 0880**

agenda, reports and minutes for all public meetings can be viewed online at:-
<http://open.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/comm/default.asp>

Constitutional Services Officer: - Rav Kalsi (0115) 8763759
rav.kalsi@nottinghamcity.gov.uk



**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.**



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

5

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.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name : Frank Swann
Chief Fire Officer

Tel : 0115 967 0880

Email : frank.swann@notts-fire.gov.uk

**Media Enquiries
Contact :** (0115) 967 0880

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