



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Finance and Resources Committee

REPORT ON CURRENT PROJECT PROGRESS

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 4 April 2014

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members on the progress on various projects across the service.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Authority has a number of projects running at any given time which impact upon the capital and revenue budgets of the Authority. As this meeting is taking place immediately after the year end, the Chair of Finance and Resources has requested that a progress report is brought to this committee.
- 1.2 In addition to projects which impact upon budgets, there are, of course, a number of other smaller activities which are managed as projects. These have not been included within this report.

2. REPORT

TRANSPORT

- 2.1 The new aerial ladder platform (ALP) which has been in procurement and build for approximately two years has now been delivered, fully commissioned, to the Training Department. Familiarisation and some cross training will take place before the vehicle is officially “on the run” but essentially this is a completed project.
- 2.2 A new Water Carrier has been designed, specified, and procured. This vehicle will be required in service before the summer and will provide the service with a large capacity water carrier that can transport and quickly discharge high volume of water to incidents where water is difficult to obtain such as open countryside. In addition, the higher volume pumps can also be used to supplement the pumping capacity of the ALP - if required.
- 2.3 Four Pumping Appliances are due for delivery shortly as the bodybuilding and stowage were being completed at E1 in early March. Orders are being placed for three pumps in 2014/15 but no further orders are being considered at this time due to possible changes to the fleet.
- 2.4 A new Flood Response Unit is expected to be delivered to the service by early June. This appliance is currently in build at Angloco.
- 2.5 It is unlikely that the new Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) and Breathing Apparatus Unit (BAU) will be delivered before the autumn. These vehicles use the chassis from the old aerial appliances(one of which has now been prepared for use) but the specification for the bodywork has yet to be completed. This will then need to be put out to tender and built.
- 2.6 The Command Support Vehicle has been through a number of evolutions of design due to changing requirements and the experience of crews using the smaller unit at Mansfield. This unit was originally brought into service following a Government specification which, in practice, has not really met the needs of the Service. This unit is still in the design stage and no specification has yet been agreed.

- 2.7 An Enhanced Logistical Support Vehicle (ELSV) has been provided by (Communities and Local Government) CLG but this will require some modifications and equipment to be fitted before being commissioned. This vehicle is one of a number procured by CLG as Command Support Units which proved unfit for purpose. These have been subsequently "free issued" to Fire and Rescue Services as ELSVs.
- 2.8 The service's fleet manager continues to assist with the development of a new national framework for the procurement of vehicles and tender evaluations will begin on 1 April 2014.

ESTATES

- 2.9 Although there are a number of pieces of work being done by the Estates Department, there are really only two major projects in progress at present and one repair project.
- 2.10 The sale of Central Fire station and its replacement by a new building on London road is progressing slowly. The police have yet to agree terms with the City Council over their relocation to Byron House and there remain some issues with one of the current tenants at the Gresham Works site.
- 2.11 The construction of the new Retford Fire Station is well underway with the structural steelwork now erected. This project is on target for delivery in October 2014.
- 2.12 The work that is being carried out at the SDC Fire House was originally programmed to cost approximately £100,000. Unfortunately, as the internal cladding has been removed, it has become clear that some of the concrete panels have been seriously damaged by fire. The extent of this is not yet fully known and neither are the likely costs of any remedial work.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

- 2.13 The ICT Capital Budget has significantly underperformed in 2013/2014 due, in no small part, to the unavailability of staff resources that have been seconded to the Tri-Service Control project and the HR project. Nevertheless, despite showing underspends, both of these projects are making good progress and are expected to complete shortly.
- 2.14 A project for business automation was carried forward from 2012/2013 and has still made little progress partly for the reason outlined in 2.13 but also because the appointment of a new ICT Manager has brought with it a complete reassessment of the ICT strategy. There is no doubt that the plans for the expansion of Sharepoint and various other initiatives will spend against this budget but not in 2013/2014.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The main financial implications are taken into account within the Capital Monitoring report elsewhere on this agenda but it is clear that a failure to perform against this capital budget will show up an underspend within the revenue support for it. Action has been taken to prevent this in future by taking a different view of the capital programme and only providing revenue support for part of the programme.

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

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken because this report is not associated with a policy, function or service. Its purpose is to explain variances to the approved budget, which reflects existing policies.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

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

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no known legal implications arising directly from this report other than those mentioned in the main body of the report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk issues associated with this report that are not fully covered within the capital monitoring report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members note the content of this report.

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

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER