

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority

COMMITTEE OUTCOMES

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 24 February 2017

Purpose of Report:

To report to Members the business and actions of the Fire Authority committee meetings which took place in January and February 2017.

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1. BACKGROUND

As part of the revised governance arrangements the Authority has delegated key responsibilities to specific committees of the Authority. As part of those delegated responsibilities, the chairs of committees and the management leads report to the Authority on the business and actions as agreed at Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on 1 June 2007.

2. REPORT

The minutes of the following meetings are attached at Appendix A for the information of all Fire Authority members:

Community Safety Committee 13 January 2017
Finance and Resources Committee 20 January 2017
Human Resources Committee 27 January 2017
Policy and Strategy Committee 03 February 2017

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All financial implications were considered as part of the original reports submitted to the committees.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

All human resources and learning and development implications were considered as part of the original reports submitted to the committees.

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 update the Fire Authority on the outcomes of committee business.

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 directly from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Service's performance in relation to matters addressed through the committee structure is scrutinised through a range of audit processes. The Service needs to continue to perform well in these areas as external scrutiny through Comprehensive Performance Assessment and auditors' judgement is key to future Service delivery.

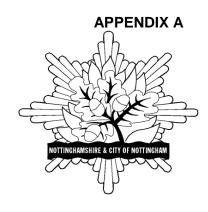
9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the contents of this report.

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

None

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY (NFRS) - COMMUNITY SAFETY

MINUTES of the meeting held at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 8PD on 13 January 2017 from 10.01 - 11.14

Membership

Present
Councillor Eunice Campbell (Chair)
Councillor Brian Grocock
Councillor Patience Uloma Ifediora
Councillor Dave Liversidge
Councillor Ken Rigby
Councillor Gordon Wheeler

<u>Absent</u>

Councillor Sybil Fielding Councillor Roger Jackson

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Wayne Bowcock - Deputy Chief Fire Officer, NFRS

Dan Quinn - Area Manager, NFRS
James Welbourn - Governance Officer

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Sybil Fielding (substituted by Councillor Brian Grocock)
Councillor Roger Jackson (substituted by Councillor Gordon Wheeler)

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

12 MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 7 October 2016 were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

13 EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDER TRIAL

Wayne Bowcock, Deputy Chief Fire Officer at NFRS updated Members on the trial collaboration with East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) on the implementation of an Emergency First Responder (EFR) Scheme at Carlton, Edwinstowe and Worksop fire stations.

The following information was highlighted:

- (a) the trial has harmonised the training standard, as well as the way NFRS respond to incidents:
- (b) EFR trial was a voluntary process for NFRS staff to engage with.
 - NFRS would like to get involved with data and evidence and give the trial a more solid footing ahead of the National Joint Committee (NJC) meeting in February;
- (c) the trial has only been run at retained stations so far; once the results of the Harworth and Newark trial are known there is a possibility of it being run at wholetime stations;
- (d) there have been occasions where it has not been possible to get an ambulance to support the fire crew within the 8-10 minute guideline;
- (e) Red 1 and Red 2 are the most life threatening calls. If the Fire Service are first on the scene, they can provide basic support to patients until EMAS arrive;
- (f) Carlton appears to be the busiest of the three locations;
- (g) the average wait time until the arrival of an EMAS resource at an incident for the Fire Service is 40 minutes. This is not impacting on the ability of the Fire Service to respond to fire incidents;
- (h) Emergency First Response incidents are very different to a fire situation or a Road Traffic Accident (RTA). Emergency First Response is very personal and puts a set of different pressures on the crews. Enhanced welfare is in place;
- (i) NFRS are talking to EMAS to enquire about their sickness levels and how that may affect the fire crews;
- (j) the EFR trial ends on 21 February;

After questions from Members, further information was provided:

- (k) the NJC commissioned the University of Hertfordshire last year to carry out a review of the trials. The contract with the University of Hertfordshire is due to end and will produce a report back to the NJC. Wayne Bowcock has asked for a copy of this report;
- (I) fire appliances turning up at locations that are in need bolsters the reputation of NFRS, and also offsets the reduction in demand for fire incidents. However, it is clear that NFRS are not trying to stray into a different area of business, as fire incidents will remain the core business.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the report;
- (2) ask for a joint report of EMAS and NFRS to come back to the Community Safety Committee outlining the benefits of the trial.

14 SERVICE DELIVERY RESPONSE PERFORMANCE

Dan Quinn, Head of Service Delivery at NFRS provided Members with an update on the development of performance reporting for Service Delivery Response.

The following information was provided:

- (a) it is not often heard in public how well the Service is doing; success should be celebrated and better communication with the public is needed;
- (b) NFRS is looking at preventative measures with other Blue Light services, such as the Winter Campaign video;

Following questions from Councillors, further information was provided:

- (c) there is no upward trend on vehicle fires through the data that NFRS has available. On major road networks, lorry fires are generally because of a fire in the load, or something to do with the brakes of the lorry;
- (d) new vehicle technology is causing concern; for example, NFRS will have to stay up to date with advancing battery technologies;
- (e) highest level objectives will be in the Integrated Risk Management Plan; performance can ultimately be measured against these in this 2014-19 plan;

Councillor Wheeler left at 1104, shortly before the end of this item due to other County Council commitments.

- (f) some measures are used by NFRS to try and prevent fires in the homes of vulnerable people, such as issuing deep fat fryers and electric blankets;
- (g) messages about the services that NFRS offer are established under the Health agenda. 'Safe and Well' will be one of the signposting agencies.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY (NFRS) - FINANCE AND RESOURCES

MINUTES of the meeting held at Fire and Rescue Services HQ, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold Nottingham NG5 8PD on 20 January 2017 from 9.59 - 12.01

Membership

<u>Present</u> <u>Absent</u>

Councillor Malcolm Wood (Chair) Councillor John Clarke, Substituted by

Councillor John Allin
Councillor Chris Barnfather
Councillor Dave Liversidge

Councillor Roger Jackson Jackson)

Councillor Darrell Pulk

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

John Buckley - Chief Fire Officer, NFRS

Therese Easom - Head of Corporate Communications, NFRS

Councillor Brian - Member of Fire Authority, observing

Grocock

Sue Maycock - Head of Finance, NFRS

lan Pritchard - Head of Procurement and Resources, NFRS

Neil Timms - Treasurer to the Authority
James Welbourn - Governance Officer

18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor John Clarke (substituted by Councillor Darrell Pulk)
Councillor Gordon Wheeler (substituted by Councillor Roger Jackson)

19 <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u>

None.

20 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2016 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

21 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT TO NOVEMBER 2016

Sue Maycock, Head of Finance at NFRS introduced a report to Members on the financial performance of the Service in the year 2016/17 to the end of November 2016.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) the Service have managed to borrow at a much lower rate than anticipated;
- (b) there are now less than 476 FTE on the approved establishment;
- (c) due to the decrease in the establishment, overtime has increased;
- (d) London Road Fire Station has not been rated for Business Rates yet. In addition, rates are still being paid on the Central Fire Station, as well as charges for gas and electricity at the Guildhall. When the Central site is sold next year, there will be an application for a refund on rates;
- (e) the work with East Midlands Ambulance Service and the Police should be celebrated.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the contents of the report;
- (2) approve the capital variation of £190,000 in respect of the Breathing Apparatus project, as expenditure in advance of the main project to be carried out in 2017/18.

22 PRUDENTIAL CODE MONITORING REPORT TO NOVEMBER 2016

Neil Timms, Treasurer to the Fire Authority informed Members of performance for the three month period to 30 November 2016 relating to the prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) all targets and parameters are now being met;
- (b) the view has always been taken that a minimum sovereign rating of AA is wanted. If the UK does get downgraded to AA-, bank accounts with Barclays should be retained along with UK investments.

RESOLVED that, if the UK sovereign rating is downgraded, the Authority's strategy will be to continue with existing banking arrangements and to retain current investments with UK institutions.

The Authority will then need to reconsider its investment strategy in a further report to Members, with any immediate requirements in the interim to be agreed between the Treasurer and the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee.

23 BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2017/2018 TO 2019/2020 AND OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TAX 2017/2018

Sue Maycock, Head of Finance at NFRS introduced a report allowing Members to consider the options for the recommendation of a balanced revenue budget, as well as considering implications for Council Tax.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) pay and non-pay budgets have been evenly managed. There has been an increase in capital financing charges, but it was less than predicted last year;
- (b) the Apprenticeship Levy is a new item that has not previously been budgeted for, and will be an estimated £107,000 per year;
- (c) most contingencies within budgets were eliminated several years ago;
- (d) the extent to which surplus balances are allowed to be consumed by budget overspending must be part of a plan.

Members present agreed that in the papers to Full Fire Authority, they would like to see previous year's budgets, as well as the forecasts. Table format would be best for ease.

Councillor Pulk also requested than an extra column be added underneath the figures, which would explain the balances.

RESOLVED to send the budget report onto the Fire Authority, with the Finance and Resources Committee recommending a 1.95% increase in Council Tax.

24 <u>NEWARK FIRE STATION PROJECT</u>

John Buckley, Chief Fire Officer at NFRS updated Members on the Newark Fire Station Project.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) there is no impact on retained members of staff by remaining on the existing site;
- (b) the intention is to demolish the existing premises, and replace it with a three-bay station, similar to Retford Fire Station at 685 sq metres;
- (c) the price is due to be submitted from tenderers on 3 February;
- (d) to maintain operational cover during construction, NFRS will stop using Newark for garaging purposes. The end bay will be taken off.

RESOLVED to note the report and give authority to proceed with the project to build a new fire station on the existing site at Boundary Road.

25 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - CARDIFF CHECKS

Sue Maycock, Head of Finance at NFRS provided Members with the results of the internal audit work undertaken in relation to Cardiff Checks in 2015/16.

RESOLVED to note the report.

26 IMPACT OF THE FALL IN THE VALUE OF STERLING

Sue Maycock, Head of Finance at NFRS set out the risks to the Authority arising from the fall in the value of currency following the European Union referendum, and potential risk control measures.

There is no direct impact to NFRS as things are rarely bought in Euros or Dollars; most of the time items are bought in Sterling. However, if NFRS bought from a company who trades in these currencies, they could pass on the increase in cost.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

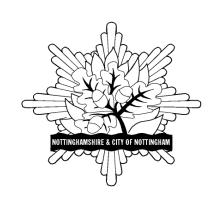
27 NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE PROCUREMENT REFORM

John Buckley, Chief Fire Officer provided an update to Members on the national fire service procurement reform, as well as the National Procurement Strategy.

There has been no written directive of what the reform of the fire service would look like. The process as a whole was about triggering debate, and looking to have a better aligned procurement process for UK Fire Services.

lan Pritchard has been put forward as a category lead; NFRS are recognized as having a professional, excellent procurement team. There will be a payback for NFRS in terms of knowledge gained, as well as the overall lowering in prices in the future as fire services work together. With a slicker research and development regime, there will be less cost carried forward into the product.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY - HUMAN RESOURCES (NFRS)

MINUTES of the meeting held at Fire and Rescue Services HQ, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold Nottingham NG5 8PD on 27 January 2017 from 9.59 - 11.05

Grocock

Membership

Present Absent

Councillor Michael Payne (Chair)

Councillor Eunice Campbell,

Substituted by Councillor Brian

Councillor Brian Grocock
Councillor Mike Pringle
Councillor Liz Yates

Councillor Jason Zadrozny (from item 4)

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Councillor Gordon - Fire Authority member, observing

Wheeler

Wayne Bowcock - Deputy Chief Fire Officer, NFRS

Tracy Crump - Head of People and Organisational Development, NFRS

Ian Pritchard - Head of Procurement and Resources, NFRS

Matt Sismey - Equality and Diversity Officer, NFRS

James Welbourn - Governance Officer

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Eunice Campbell - other City Council business (substituted by Councillor Brian Grocock)

17 <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u>

None.

18 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

19 HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Tracy Crump, Head of People and Organisational Development at NFRS updated Members on key human resources metrics for the period 1 October – 31 December 2016.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) efforts are being made to make sure employees feel confident to declare their sexual orientation, religion and ethnic origin under equalities monitoring statistics;
- (b) NFRS have been in the Stonewall Top 100 for the past few years, and retained this again this year by being placed 99. NFRS are a relatively small organisation, with over 430 organisations entering the index. A lot of these 430 entries were large private sector organisations that have a lot of resources at their disposal;
- (c) HR Business Partners are involved with all shortlisting and attend all interviews, giving an independent overview. Adjustments are made for candidates with disabilities;

Following questions from members, further information was provided:

- (d) there is an induction programme for all new employees, as well as online equalities training, which is mandatory for all employees. There is specific training for management roles;
- (e) half day sessions are run for new starters touching on issues such as vulnerability. Mental health training has been provided in the past. There has also been more specific training aimed at firefighters that attend areas where more targeted training is needed. Gypsy Traveller training would be an example of this;
- (f) female firefighters have been asked if they would be willing to act as 'buddies' to mentor female applicants;
- (g) taster sessions are still offered to potential recruits.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) endorse the report;
- (2) provide equalities monitoring information on a half yearly basis. If issues arise in between these updates, then they should be brought to the attention of the Human Resources Committee;

20 AUDIT OF RECRUITMENT OUTCOMES

Matt Sismey, Equality and Diversity Officer at NFRS provided Members with the results of the internal audit work undertaken in relation to applications received to support staff and retained duty system recruitment.

Members suggested that, to try and avoid wasting applicants' time, as well as the time of NFRS, there could be a need to communicate the availability and location requirements at the application stage.

The 'five minute rule' has been relaxed on a couple of occasions but this depends on the staffing levels of the station in question.

RESOLVED to note the outcomes from the report.

21 APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE

Tracy Crump, Head of People and Organisational Development at NFRS provided an update on the apprenticeship reforms being introduced by the government, and the potential implications for NFRS.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) it will be highly difficult for the service to draw down the levy funding in the first year as there are very few relevant apprenticeship frameworks in operation;
- (b) the target for public sector organisations will be that 2.3% of new starters need to be on apprenticeships. For authorities that don't meet the target, there would need to be a statement put out outlining why targets can't be met, as well as notifying the Secretary of State;
- (c) it has been accepted that a trailblazer Operational Firefighter Apprenticeship Scheme will be developed during 2017

Members expressed concern that the Levy was lacking in detail and nuance.

RESOLVED to note the report.

22 CHANGE TO PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT - COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wayne Bowcock, Deputy Chief Fire Officer at NFRS introduced a report outlining potential restructure of the Community Safety Team.

RESOLVED to support the permanent deletion of the role of Risk Reduction Officer to support the transfer of Prince's Trust activities to the Community Safety team with effect from 1 February 2017.

23 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public 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 outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12 A to the Act.

24 RESTRUCTURE OF THE EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORT SECTIONS

Wayne Bowcock, Deputy Chief Fire Officer at NFRS introduced the report on the Restructure of the Equipment and Transport Sections.

RESOLVED to agree the recommendations in the report.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY - POLICY & STRATEGY

MINUTES of the meeting held at Fire and Rescue Services HQ, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold Nottingham NG5 8PD on 3 February 2017 from 10.00 - 11.41

Membership

<u>Present</u> <u>Absent</u>

Councillor Darrell Pulk (Chair)
Councillor Chris Barnfather
Councillor Sybil Fielding
Councillor Brian Grocock
Councillor Gordon Wheeler
Councillor Malcolm Wood

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

John Buckley - Chief Fire Officer, NFRS

Tracy Crump - Head of People and Organisational Development, NFRS

Therese Easom - NFRS

Sue Maycock - Head of Finance, NFRS

Craig Parkin - Assistant Chief Fire Officer, NFRS

Ian Pritchard - Head of Procurement and Resources, NFRS

Malcolm Townroe - Clerk to the Fire Authority

James Welbourn - Governance Officer

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

20 <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u>

None.

21 MINUTES

Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority - Policy & Strategy - 3.02.17

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

22 REVISED CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

John Buckley, Chief Fire Officer presented Members with details of the new CIPFA/Solace framework for delivering good governance in Local Government.

It was proposed to accept this revised code as it is rather than amending the existing one.

RESOLVED to approve the adoption of the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance.

23 <u>INFORMATION GOVERNANCE UPDATE</u>

John Buckley, Chief Fire Officer provided an update to Members on the information governance arrangements at NFRS.

The following points were highlighted:

- (a) Craig Parkin, Assistant Chief Fire Officer at NFRS has been nominated as the senior officer responsible for information governance;
- (b) Freedom of Information (FOI) requests can be costly and very time consuming. NFRS have tried to publish as much information as possible on their website to try and mitigate the number of FOIs.

There can be some vexatious FOI requests, but there have been very few to date.

RESOLVED that the Chief Fire Officer provides an information governance report annually to the September meeting of the full Fire Authority, to include freedom of information requests, data protection areas of interest, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) activity and an overview of environmental information requests.

24 <u>COLLABORATION UPDATE</u>

John Buckley, Chief Fire Officer provided an overview on current and prospective collaborative activities by NFRS.

To add to this, the Chair had received a letter from Brandon Lewis MP, Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Services regarding the Police and Crime Bill. The Bill is due to come into force on 3 April. The Chair intends to meet with Paddy Tipping, Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to discuss issues over the proposed new legislation.

There has been no formal request from the PCC to become a Member of the Fire Authority. However, if the PCC were to sit on the Fire Authority, there will be some

Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority - Policy & Strategy - 3.02.17 work to do on political balance as the PCC would be a 19th Member. Information will be circulated to Members as soon as it is available.

Following this, further information was given on collaboration:

- (a) NFRS have taken part in co-location since the 1960s. A recent example of co-location would be the floor sharing with Nottingham City Council at the new London Road Fire Station. NFRS also co-locate with the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS);
- (b) joint working occurs at an operational level, as well as high level intelligence. This feeds into day to day operations issues, as well as leading to high level joint training, and initial response training.
 - Medical co-responding has taken place for 15 years NFRS were one of the authorities that were involved in initial testing for this;
- (c) NFRS have been a successful delivery partner for the Prince's Trust;
- (d) NFRS have an ability to respond back to Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Services' Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) consultation. It is also an opportunity to see what other areas of work Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire can collaborate on;
- (e) engagement with the workforce is key when moving forward with collaboration. The Chief has engaged an organisational development programme, as well as having regular conversations with trade unions.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) endorse the collaboration work undertaken by the Service;
- (2) ask the Chief to respond to the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service IRMP consultation to explore opportunities to enter into a formal collaboration arrangement;
- (3) receive a future report from the Chief Fire Officer on the implications arising from the Policing and Crime Bill when it receives Royal assent.

25 EMERGENCY SERVICE NETWORK (ESN) UPDATE

Craig Parkin, Assistant Chief Fire Officer provided an update on the progress of the Emergency Services Network (ESN) programme.

The following information was provided:

 (a) concerns have been raised about the deliverability of the ESN project following public accounts committee hearings. If there is a delay leading to slippage, this could be costly; Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority - Policy & Strategy - 3.02.17

- (b) Government are still expecting to transition to the new system in December 2019;
- (c) NFRS are quite fortunate that their transition can happen quite early on compared to other Fire and Rescue services. Airwave services will be running in parallel with the new system, and NFRS can revert back to this if needed;
- (d) services across the East Midlands have been focusing on how ESN can be delivered together. There is a workshop in March for blue light services being facilitated by NFRS.

RESOLVED to note the report.

26 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items 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 outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

27 LEASE FOR HUCKNALL FIRE STATION

lan Pritchard, Head of Procurement and Resources introduced the item on the lease for Hucknall Fire Station.

RESOLVED to accept the recommendations contained within the report.

28 CLAIM FOR AN EX-GRATIA PAYMENT

John Buckley, Chief Fire Officer reported to Members a claim for an ex-gratia payment.

RESOLVED to accept the recommendations as detailed in the exempt minute.

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