



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

**FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on **11 OCTOBER 2013** at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottingham from 10.02 am to 10.28 am.

**Membership**

Councillor Malcolm Wood	(Chair)
Councillor Chris Barnfather	
^ Councillor John Clarke	
^ Councillor Jon Collins	
Councillor Brian Grocock	(as substitute for Councillor Jon Collins)
Councillor Darrell Pulk	(as substitute for Councillor John Clarke)
^ Councillor Gordon Wheeler	

Members absent are marked ^

**Officers in Attendance**

Neil Timms	Strategic Director of Finance and Resources
Peter Hurford	Treasurer to the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority
Carol Jackson	Constitutional Service Officer, Nottingham City Council

**9 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor John Clarke  
Councillor Jon Collins  
Councillor Gordon Wheeler

**10 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

## **11 MINUTES**

**The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2013 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.**

## **12 CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2013**

The Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, presented the report of the Chief Fire Officer, reporting progress to Members on the Capital Programme in 2013/14 to the end of August 2013, analysing significant variances against the original programme.

The capital budget monitoring statement is showing an underspend to date of £7,347,000 against a budget for the year of £8,339,000. Overall capital expenditure is likely to reach £6,190,000 by the end of the year but the outturn will be continually reviewed and reported throughout the year.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

## **13 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 AUGUST 2013**

The Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, presented the report of the Chief Fire Officer, reporting progress to members on the financial performance of the Service in the year 2013/14 to the end of August 2013 analysing significant variances against the original programme.

The revenue budget monitoring statement for August 2013 is showing an underspend to date of £610,000 against a budget for the year of £43,899,000. The projected outturn variance for the year is an underspend of £1,220,000.

Part of the underspend relates to a Department for Communities and Local Government grant of £85,000 for council tax transition which was not known about at the time the budgets were set. The Strategic Director of Finance and Resources requested that Members approve the transfer of the grant to an earmarked reserve at year end, to be used to fund any future budget shortfall created by a reduction in the tax-base caused by council tax reform.

**RESOLVED**

**(1) to approve the transfer of £85,000 to an earmarked reserve at year end to be used to fund any future budget shortfall created by a reduction in the tax-base caused by council tax reform;**

**(2) to note the report.**

## **14 PRUDENTIAL CODE MONITORING REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2013**

The Treasurer to the Fire Authority presented his report, informing members of the prudential indicators for capital accounting and treasury management for the period March 2013 up to 31 August 2013.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

## **15 SCRUTINY OF BUDGETS**

The Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, presented the report of the Chief Fire Officer reporting on the work undertaken by the Chair of the Committee alongside officers of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Service to review existing base budgets and identify initial budget savings. The Chair met with budget holders on 23 and 24 September. The budget holders explained what their budgets were used for and what kind of factors influenced their spending. A total of £609,000 new savings in 2014/15 were identified, i.e. 5.5 % of the total non-pay base budget.

The Chair advised the meeting that it had been a very productive day with officers being extremely co-operative.

The Councillors present thanked the Chair for his involvement and officers for their input.

**RESOLVED to note the progress made to date in reviewing the base budget.**

## **16 VIREMENT REQUEST FOR REPAIR WORKS TO SERVICE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FIRE HOUSE**

Neil Timms, Strategic Director of Finance and Resources, presented the report of the Chief Fire Officer seeking the approval of Members to a virement to enable repair works to be carried out at the Service Development Centre, specifically to the fire house. The cost of the works is estimated to be £98,554.

**RESOLVED to ratify the decision of the Chair of the Committee in approving the expenditure and that the costs be met from the Capital reserve.**