



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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

FUTURE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 25 July 2014

Purpose of Report:

To consider opportunities for the enhancement of member engagement in the early stage development of future long term policies.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members of the Fire Authority undertake a critical role in defining the future direction of the Fire and Rescue Service through the development of policy. The Governance arrangements in place provide a robust and transparent mechanism for the formal adoption of policy, and scrutiny of outcomes thereafter.
- 1.2 Previously Members' seminars and training events have been utilised to bring together senior officers and Members in an informal setting to assist in the broader understanding and initial thinking around future policy development.
- 1.3 It is widely accepted that the challenges facing the Service are significant, and the amount of change and re-evaluation of policy will be extensive to ensure high quality service delivery is maintained.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Outside of the formal public governance arrangements that exist for the Authority, there is very little opportunity for Members and senior officers to informally discuss future policy requirements.
- 2.2 There is no doubt that to maintain the delivery of high quality services the Authority must ensure it is circumspect and considered all options for future delivery, and in this regard it is clear that much discussion and debate is needed to identify all potential opportunities.
- 2.3 Collectively, Members have significant experience across the wider Local Government family and are able to assist officers in identifying and developing policy, prior to it being honed, consulted upon widely and adopted through due process.
- 2.4 This report looks to establish mechanisms to develop greater interaction between Members and officers to ensure that collective knowledge and experience is utilised to best effect.
- 2.5 Around the country various schemes exist within other authorities which are designed to harness and enhance Member and officer development. It is therefore proposed that a working group of five Members, including the Chair of the Authority, explore the good practice already available and work with the Chief Fire Officer to develop similar opportunities locally.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There may be some minor costs arising through visits to other authorities or attendance at learning events and any such costs arising are expected to be contained within the existing Members' development budget of £5,000.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There is an opportunity to enhance the knowledge and understanding of both Members and senior officers within the organisation through developing closer working relationships. This experiential learning will complement existing formal learning processes.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken as this report does not change policy or service delivery functions.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Service is facing significant challenges, and the harnessing of all available experience and knowledge maximises the potential for robust future policy development.

7. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

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

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members agree to the formation of a working group, consisting of the Chair and four further Members, to work with the Chief Fire Officer to enhance opportunities for increased development, information and knowledge sharing.

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

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER