

APPENDIX A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23RD MARCH 2017 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

Question to the Chairman of the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Fire Authority, from Councillor Maureen Dobson

Does the Chairman of the Fire Authority agree with me that the idea of collaboration between the Fire Service and the East Midlands Ambulance Service is an excellent one? Could the Chairman tell us when the collaboration trial period is going to be evaluated and the results made public?

Response from Councillor Darrell Pulk, Chairman of the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Fire Authority

The Fire and Rescue Service in Nottinghamshire has been collaborating with the East Midlands Ambulance Service for over 15 years, so clearly we do agree and can evidence it is an excellent idea. This has been achieved through co-responding from four of our fire stations for many years. Those being at Eastwood, Misterton, Southwell and East Leake, involving approximately 55 fire fighters.

Emergency Medical Response (EMR) has long been debated as a potential role for fire fighters. However it is not part of the job description or contract for fire fighters and the Fire and Rescue Service receives no funding from the Government to provide this service.

More recently the Fire Brigade Union (FBU) has changed its position regarding EMR and last year through negotiation with a national joint council for local authorities for fire and rescue services, the MJC, entered into a national trial of EMR. Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, including local trade union officials, agreed to take part in the trial in order to add valuable research data.

The trial in Nottinghamshire has commenced at various stages over the past 15 months and is made up of two approaches, where fire fighters respond to the most serious life threatening incidents such as cardiac arrest or breathing difficulties. Approach one is where a full time fire appliance and crew attend calls involving Carlton, Worksop and Edwinstowe, and the other approach where on-call fire fighters at Collingham and Harworth take a response car home and attend the same types of call. The full time trial ended on the 17th March 2017, which involved approximately 60 fire fighters and the on-call trial continues involving approximately 25 fire fighters.

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue has contributed to national research and evaluation undertaken on behalf of the MJC by the University of Hertfordshire, which has produced its findings in a report called "Broadening Responsibilities – Consideration of the Potential of the Broader Role of Uniformed Fire Service Employees". The findings of this research present robust evidence which includes support for fire and rescue services to co-respond with ambulance services, integration of medical

emergencies with fire and rescue 'safe and well' checks and supporting people live safely and independently across a range of health and social priority care priorities.

The establishment of national standards for a medical emergency response, and early indications of the social return on investments of this work, indicate savings for each pound invested of between £5.67 and £14.40. Further detailed analysis is still to be carried out. The next step in relation to fire and rescue services and fire fighters carrying out the emergency medical response will be subject to national negotiation. The FBU held a recall conference on this matter on the 21st March 2017. We await the outcomes which will inform their position with the national negotiations, which centre on contractual terms, liabilities, pensionable impact and pay. On the issues being negotiated by employees, employees and lead government departments reach the conclusion that the fire authority of Nottinghamshire will be in a position to consider the future of this response for the residents of Nottinghamshire and the City of Nottingham.