

Minutes of the Executive Committee

2nd April 2007 at 12.15pm

at Fire Service Headquarters, Lancaster Circus Queensway, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Hinton (Chair);
Councillor Hogarth (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Bowen, Eustace, Howard, Idrees and Ward.

Observers: Councillors S Davis, Gazey, Jones, Rogers, Singh and
Tagger.
Mr Topliss.

14/07 External Partnership Funding – Urban Safety Town at New Fire Service Headquarters

The Committee was informed of an offer of funding of £100,000 made by Birmingham's Safer Stronger Group (BSSG) towards the scoping and development work necessary to define the activities of the Urban Safety Town at the new headquarters.

The aims and objectives of BSSG to improve the well being of the citizens of Birmingham were aligned to and supportive of those of the WMFS.

The Brigade's External Partnerships Officer was exploring external funding opportunities from a range of other potential partners.

Resolved that approval be given to the acceptance of external funding of £100,000 from Birmingham's Safer Stronger Group (BSSG) towards the scoping and development work necessary to define the activities of the Urban Safety Town at the new headquarters.

15/07 New Fire Service Headquarters

The Committee received an update on progress made in relation to the acquisition of land at Vauxhall Road, Nechells for the development of a new headquarters building, and noted the following key progress points:-

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- Birmingham City Council's Planning Committee had approved the planning application for the new headquarters buildings on the 18th January 2007.
- Land acquisition documents transferring the ownership of the site to the Authority were completed on the 2nd March 2007.
- Ashford Construction Plc had been awarded the contract for the sum of £9,153,667 and work had commenced on the site on the 26th March 2007.

The project was on target and associated costs continued to be accommodated within the project budget.

16/07 **Recruitment, Induction and Retention of Employees from Under Represented Groups**

The Committee was asked to approve the establishment of a Task and Finish Group to examine the recruitment, induction and retention of under represented groups. These groups typically included, woman, black and ethnic minority staff and those with a disability.

Initial examinations of available data had revealed that some or all of the groups had levels of difficulty at all stages within the process. It was therefore proposed to establish a Task and Finish Group, comprising of the Lead Members for Performance Management and Equality and Diversity and officers from a range of disciplines, to examine the data in more detail and consider ways of addressing the issues.

Resolved that approval be given to establish a Task and Finish Group, comprising of the Lead Members for Performance Management and Equality and Diversity and officers from a range of disciplines, to examine the recruitment, induction and retention of under represented groups.

(Meeting ended at 12.20 pm)

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