

<p>Minutes of the Executive Committee</p>
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3rd March 2008, at 12.15 pm
at Fire Service Headquarters,
Lancaster Circus Queensway, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Howard (Chairman);
Councillors S Davis, Foster, Hinton, Idrees, Jackson and Ward.

Observers: Councillors Birbeck, Gazey, Ryder, Turner and Mr Topliss.

14/08 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 17th December, 2007 and 14th and 28th January, 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

15/08 **Presentation to Blue Watch Northfield**

The Committee congratulated the firefighters of Blue Watch Northfield for winning the Brigade Breathing Apparatus Competition.

The Chief Fire Officer presented the firefighters with a trophy and wished them luck for the national competition.

16/08 **Best Value Performance Indicators - Data for 2007/2008 to 31st January 2008**

The Committee noted the data against Best Value performance indicators set out in the Authority's Annual Report up to and including 31st January, 2008.

There was only one indicator where performance was decreasing, which related to the number of Special Service Calls. This had exceeded the target set due to the unexpectedly high level of calls to floodings during the financial year 2007/08.

Members congratulated officers on the number of Home Fire Safety

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Checks carried out, which was set to exceed the target.

17/08 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Resolved that the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, (including the authority holding that information.)

18/08 **Procurement of Gas and Electricity**

The Committee was informed that the current contract with the Black Country Consortium for the purchase of gas and electricity was due to expire on 31st March, 2008.

The purchase of gas and electricity was a specific Work Package within the Regional Procurement Project. The outcome of that work was to recommend that each Fire and Rescue Authority should ensure they procure their energy from a recognised purchasing organisation such as the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Buying Solutions or the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation, who had the expertise to negotiate, implement and monitor large energy contracts.

The OGC frameworks provided the preferred procurement route when price, environmental and administrative factors were considered and were widely recognised as an effective method of procuring energy. Accessing the OGC frameworks for gas and electricity would avoid the need to undertake a tender process. The use of the framework would be reviewed annually to ensure it remained the most appropriate procurement option for the Authority.

Under the contracts 10% of green energy would be procured in accordance with Government targets and was the maximum possible to procure under the current market conditions.

Funding of £440k for the provision of gas and £400k for the provision of electricity was built into the Authority's 2008/9 budget. It was anticipated that these budget sums would accommodate the new proposed contractual arrangements.

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Resolved that approval be given to the procurement of the Authority's gas and electricity requirements through the Office of Government Commerce Framework Agreement.

(Meeting ended at 12.30 pm)

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Contact Officer: Stephnie Hancock Democratic Services Unit Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council 0121-569-3189</i></p>
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