

<p>Minutes of the Executive Committee</p>
--

28th April, 2004 at 10.00 a.m.
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Hinton (Chair);
Councillor Kazi (Vice Chair);
Councillors Harper, Hogarth and K W Johnson.

50/04 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 16th February, 1st and 22nd March, 2004 be confirmed as correct records.

51/04 **External Funding**

The Committee received a report informing Members of the external funding that had been sourced to support Brigade activities.

A number of bids for external funding had been submitted and accepted that had enabled projects to be resourced that were not financed from within the Authority's spending plans. These included the Home Safety Partnership; Bilston Young Fire Fighters Association and Youth Inclusion and 10 Days in March (a project supporting the Home Safety Scheme).

Members were informed that Zoey Fencott (Performance and Planning) would be leaving the Authority to further her career at Dudley Council. Members thanked Zoey for all of her hard work in co-ordinating projects and wished her well for the future.

52/04 **Contracts Awarded in excess of £50,000.00 – Quarterly Update**

The Committee received a report detailing contracts awarded in excess of £50,000.00.

Following a meeting of the Authority in June, 2003 it was agreed that Members should consider and open tenders exceeding the value of £100,000.00. Those tenders below £100,000.00 but above £50,000.00 would be reported on a quarterly basis to the Committee.

Executive Committee
28th April, 2004

Members noted the contracts awarded as detailed below:-

Provision of PPE storage at Brierley Hill Fire Station	£95,921	Enderbey Properties Ltd
Provision of PPE storage at Central, Perry Barr, Aston, Ward End and Sutton Coldfield Fire Stations	£62,598.70	Mitie Property Services
ACM removal and decontamination Wednesbury Fire Station	£85,873.70	William Gough
Miscellaneous works to increase security at ICT Smethwick	£94,269.26	Drewmark
Electrical rewire at Kings Norton	£50,631.54	Central Networks Contracting

53/04 **Provision of Aid to other Nations – Donation of Decommissioned Fire Appliance**

The Committee received a report on the proposed donation of a fire appliance to the Bihor County Fire Service in Oradea, Romania.

Under Standing Order 1/21, Provision of Aid to other Nations, the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Treasurer had delegated power to donate a maximum of two fire appliances in any one financial year, provided that conditions were met.

This practice had been utilised during 2002 when two Fire Appliances were donated to the Oradea area of Romania. Excellent links had since been established with the Romanian Fire Service. Approval was sought to enhance the aid and support provided by the West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority by donating a further Appliance.

Officers reported that training would be provided on how to use the Appliances. This training could then be filtered to other members of the Romanian Fire Service.

Executive Committee
28th April, 2004

The cost of donating the Appliance would be approximately £2,500. This would be the equivalent cost the Authority would receive should the Appliance be auctioned at the end of its 'serviceable life' within the West Midlands Fire Service.

Resolved that one decommissioned Fire Appliance be donated to Bihor County Fire Service in Oradea, Romania.

54/04 **Local Government Act 1972 – Urgent Item of Business**

The Chair was of the opinion that the item referred to in Minute No. 55/04 below should be considered as an urgent item of business in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The matter was considered as an urgent item as the responses to consultation documents needed to be submitted by 18th May, 2004.

55/04 **Local Investigation and Determination of Complaints**

With reference to Minute No. 4/04 of the Standards Committee, the Committee received a report requesting Members to consider the responses of Officers to consultation papers received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Standards Board for England.

On 26th September, 2003 a procedure was adopted for determining referred complaints based on the guidance issued by the Standards Board for England at that time. The Government had since issued guidance that it proposed to issue further regulations enabling the Standards Board for England to refer complaints of Member misconduct to the Authority's Monitoring Officer before investigation. The Monitoring Officer would then arrange for the local investigation of the complaint and for the matter to be reported to the Standards Committee for determination.

Consultation papers by both the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Standards Board for England had been issued to which Officers had drafted responses. Members considered the draft responses.

It was noted that whilst there would be no direct financial implications the transfer of responsibility for carrying out local investigations from the Standards Board potentially placed a greater workload upon the Monitoring Officer and members of his staff. It was anticipated that this increase could be accommodated at the present time using the existing resources.

Executive Committee
28th April, 2004

Resolved that the proposed responses to the consultation documents be endorsed.

56/04 **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 relating to advice in connection with legal proceedings/the determination of a matter affecting the Authority.

57/04 **Outcome of Disciplinary Appeal to Secretary of State under the Fire Services (Discipline) Regulations 1985.**

With reference to Minute No 30/04 of the Authority, the Committee received further guidance from Counsel in respect of this matter.

Resolved that in accordance with Minute No 30/04 of the Authority, judicial review proceedings be commenced against the decision of the Secretary of State in respect of the appeal by Mr S.G. against the Disciplinary Committee's awards of 'requirement to resign' under the terms of the Fire Services (Discipline) Regulations 1985.

Members and Officers that had been involved in the Disciplinary Committee process withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the above item.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Chair announced the retirement of Councillor Betteridge from the local government service. He thanked Councillor Betteridge for his contribution and hard work and wished him well for the future. Members present at the meeting endorsed the comments of the Chair.

(Meeting ended at 11.15 a.m.)

<i>Contact Officer: Neil Picken Democratic Services Unit 0121-569 3193</i>
--

Executive Committee
28th April, 2004