

<p><b>Minutes of the Executive Committee</b></p>
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**13<sup>th</sup> November 2006 at 12 noon**  
**at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham**

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

**Observers:** Councillors Davis, Douglas-Maul, Singh, Spence,  
Stevenson and Tagger; Mr Topliss.

72/06 **Construction of an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Facility at Bickenhill Fire Station**

Further to Minute No. 68/05 (24<sup>th</sup> October, 2005) the Committee was informed that planning permission had been granted on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2006 for the development of an Urban Search and Rescue Facility (USAR) at Bickenhill Fire Station.

The estimated cost of the facility was £950,000. Members expressed concern regarding the uncertainty of future funding for technical rescue work. This matter would be raised with the Fire Service Minister at the forthcoming Parliamentary visit.

**Resolved** that approval be given to the construction of an Urban Search and Rescue Facility at Bickenhill Fire Station.

73/06 **Mid-year update – Annual Efficiency Statement**

The Committee received a mid-year update on its forward-looking Annual Efficiency Statement.

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74/06     **Analysis of Progress Towards Key Objectives and Best Value Recommendations – Quarterly Report 2006/2007 (April to September 2006)**

The Committee noted the progress made towards achieving key objectives and Best Value Review recommendations from April to September 2006.

75/06     **Extension to the Current Externalised part of the Brigade's Catering Contract**

Approval was sought to further extend the current catering contract for a period of approximately 18 months (from June 2007 to December 2008) to enable a relevant tender specification to be drawn up in relation to the requirements for the new Headquarters.

The Committee had previously granted an extension to the current contract on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2004 (Minute No. 20/05 refers) in anticipation that a new contract could be entered into at the time of the move to the new headquarters site. The contract was therefore due to come to an end in May 2007. However, details of the new headquarters site and its requirements were still not finalised and it was not therefore possible to produce a relevant tender specification at this stage.

Legal advice had been sought and the Authority was satisfied that the proposed extension was consistent with the requirements of the Authority's Procurement Standing Orders.

**Resolved** that approval be given to negotiate an extension of approximately 18 months (June 2007 to December 2008) to the current catering contract, in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 1/8 (3.11.1 and 3.15vi).

76/06     **Disparity in Estimates and Quotations**

Further to Minute No. 52/06 (11<sup>th</sup> September, 2006) the Committee noted a report which explained the reasons for disparity between estimates and quotations in connection with the replacement of central heating boilers at Ladywood and Billesley Fire Stations.

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For the future, in the event that there was a variance of more than 10% between a quotation and an estimate, officers would be required to submit a full report to Members.

77/06     **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 other persons (including the authority holding that information).

78/06     **National Firecontrol Project – Impact Analysis on Convergence Work Required**

The Committee noted the outcome of a Convergence Impact Analysis in relation to both physical and financial resources required to ensure common standards of operation for Regional Control Centres.

Approval was sought to submit a 'New Burdens' application to the Department for Communities and Local Government to secure the funding necessary to undertake the convergence work.

The Committee was informed of the estimated costs and timescales of the work required.

**Resolved** that approval be given to the submission of a 'New Burdens' application to the Department for Communities and Local Government to secure additional funding to meet additional costs to the Authority in undertaking the necessary convergence work.

(Meeting ended at 2.26 pm)

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