

Minutes of the West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority

14th February, 2005 at 11.00 a.m.
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Hinton (Chair);
Councillor Hogarth (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Afzal, Birbeck, Bowen, G. Davies, S. Davis,
Eustace, Foster, Haque, Howard, Idrees, Jackson,
Jevon, Kazi, Matchet, Rogers, Ross, Ryder, Singh and
Ward.

Apologies: Councillors Lawrence, Mulhall and Underhill.

1/05 **Chair's Announcements**

Death of Firefighters serving in Hertfordshire

The Chair reported that two firefighters serving with the Hertfordshire Fire Brigade had tragically died during a recent fire in Stevenage, together with one member of the public. Members stood in silent tribute as a token of respect to their memory.

Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) – Peer Review Submission

The Chair referred Members to the Peer Review Submission that had been prepared as part of the Authority's CPA. The Peer Review would take place on 22nd and 23rd February, 2005. The Executive Committee would be asked to formally approve the Authority's CPA submission at its meeting to be held on 14th March, 2005, and the formal assessment would take place between 21st and 27th April, 2005. Further presentations would be made to Members at forthcoming Policy Planning Forums.

Notice of Industrial Action - UNISON

The Chair referred to notification received from UNISON that it intended to conduct a ballot of its members for industrial action in connection with a trade dispute over proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme. Ballot papers would be sent out on 14th February, and the result would be known by 9th March, 2005.

West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority
14th February, 2005

2/05 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November, 2004, be confirmed as a correct record.

3/05 **Budget and Precept 2005/06**

The Authority considered a report on the Capital Programme for 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08, the prudential indicators relating to the Authority's capital financing requirements, the revenue budget for 2005/06, and consequent precept level and resultant amount for each constituent District Council.

The Policy Planning Forum had considered the budgetary situation on 31st January, 2005. The Executive Committee had met on the same date to consult with domestic ratepayers.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Authority's Revenue Budget for 2005/2006 of £113.582,000 as set out in Appendix C to the report be approved;
- (2) that the Authority's capital budget for 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 as set out in Appendix E to the report be approved;
- (3) that the Authority's Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix F to the report be approved;
- (4) that the Council Tax bases for the year 2005/2006 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as follows, be noted:-

	Tax Base
Birmingham	284,101.00
Coventry	86,030.90
Dudley	96,387.02
Sandwell	82,595.60
Solihull	76,751.00
Walsall	76,002.00

West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority
14th February, 2005

Wolverhampton	69,760.00
	<u>771,627.52</u>
	=====

- (5) that the following amounts be now calculated by the Authority for the year 2005/2006 in accordance with Sections 43 to 48 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
- (i) £122,424,586 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 43(2)(a) to (d) of the Act;
 - (ii) £8,842,470 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 43(3)(a) to (b) of the Act;
 - (iii) £113,582,116 being the amount by which the aggregate at (5)(i) above exceeds the aggregate at (5)(ii) above calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 43(4) of the Act as its budget requirement for the year;
 - (iv) £81,785,851 being the aggregate of the sums which the Authority estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates and revenue support grant decreased by the aggregate of the sums which the Authority estimates will be paid out in the year to the constituent District Councils in respect of amounts they have estimated as the deficit on their collection funds for 2004/2005;
 - (v) £41,206,754 being the amount at (5)(iii) above less the amount at (5)(iv) above all divided by the total amount at (4) above, calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 44(1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;

West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority
14th February, 2005

(vi)	<u>Valuation Bands</u>	£ (to 6 decimals)	£ (rounded to 2 decimals)
	A	27.471170	27.47
	B	32.049698	32.05
	C	36.628226	36.63
	D	41.206754	41.21
	E	50.363811	50.36
	F	59.520867	59.52
	G	68.677924	68.68
	H	82.413509	82.41

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (5)(v) above by the number which in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 47(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

- (6) that the following precepts be issued to the seven charging authorities in the West Midlands:-

	£
Birmingham City Council	11,706,880
Coventry City Council	3,545,054
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	3,971,796
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	3,403,496
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	3,162,660
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	3,131,796
Wolverhampton City Council	2,874,583
Total	<hr/> 31,796,265 =====

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (5)(v) above by the appropriate tax base at (4) above in accordance with section 48(2) of the Act, as the amount of precept payable by each constituent District Council.

West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority
14th February, 2005

- (7) that the precept for each District Council as calculated at (6) above be issued in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

4/05 **Fire Service Dwellings - Rent**

The Authority considered a report on the proposed increase in rents for fire service dwellings for the 2005/06 and 2006/07 financial years, based on a fair rent assessment.

Resolved:-

- (1) that approval be given to an increase in exclusive rents for Fire Service dwellings with effect from 1st April, 2005, and 1st April, 2006, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report;
- (2) that with effect from 1st April, 2005, the weekly charge for garages be increased to £4.84 per week plus VAT.

5/05 **Corporate Risk Register and Action Plans**

The Authority considered a report setting out a Corporate Risk Register that identified the ten most significant risks to the Authority's business which needed to be addressed at a corporate level, and associated Action Plans designed to reduce or eliminate those strategic risks. It was proposed to review the Register annually and this review would feed into the business planning cycle.

Resolved that the Corporate Risk Register and associated action plans be approved.

6/05 **Institution of Legal Proceedings**

The Authority was informed that, after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, legal proceedings had been successfully instituted against a Wolverhampton company in respect of failure to comply with an enforcement notice issued under the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 (as amended).

West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority
14th February, 2005

7/05 **Monitoring of Finances**

The Authority received a report on the monitoring of finances during 2004/05.

8/05 **Minutes of the Executive Committee**

The minutes of the meetings held on 27th September and 6th December, 2004, and 4th and 31st January, 2005 were received.

It was noted that the Executive Committee held on 31st January, 2005 had commenced at 12 noon, and not at 10.00 am as printed in the minutes.

9/05 **Notes of the Policy Planning Forum**

The notes of the meetings held on 6th December, 2004, and 31st January, 2005, were received.

10/05 **Minutes of the Appeals Committee**

The minutes of the meetings held on 11th, 24th and 29th November, and 1st December, 2004, were received.

11/05 **West Midlands Regional Management Board**

The minutes of the meetings held on 26th November, 2004, and 25th January, 2005, were submitted.

Resolved that the acts, proceedings and recommendations of the West Midlands Regional Management Board, as set out in the minutes, be approved and adopted.

(Meeting ended at 11.37 p.m.)

<i>Contact Officer: Georgina Wythes Democratic Services Unit 0121-569 3791</i>
--