

Minutes of the Executive Committee

13th September, 2004 at 2.00 p.m.
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Hinton (Chair);
Councillor Hogarth (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Eustace, Howard, Kazi and Rogers (substitute
for Councillor Lawrence).

Observer: Councillor Ward.

Apologies: Councillors Lawrence and Underhill.

87/04 **Members' Allowances Scheme**

The Committee received a report setting out proposed amendments to the current Members' Allowances Scheme consequent upon the adoption by the Authority at its meeting on 26th July, 2004 of portfolio arrangements for the Chair, Vice-Chair and Lead Members for Equality and Diversity and Performance Management (and their deputies), and the appointment of one further independent Member to the Standards Committee. Some minor administrative changes were also proposed.

In view of recent significant changes in political management arrangements and the development of wider regional initiatives, the Committee's views were also requested on the need to conduct a more detailed review of the Members' Allowances Scheme, and on the process for undertaking such a review.

Resolved:

- (1) that the amendments to the Members' Allowances Scheme set out in Appendix 1 hereto be approved; and
- (2) that a detailed review of the Members' Allowances Scheme be carried out, and that the Clerk be requested to approach the Bishop of Dudley to chair an Independent Remuneration Panel to undertake this work.

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88/04 **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 as follows:-

Minute Nos. 89/04 and 90/04 - relating to terms proposed for the disposal/acquisition of property or the supply of goods and services and disclosure would be likely to prejudice the Authority.

Minute No 91/04 – relating to particular employees.

89/04 **Breathing Apparatus Set Maintenance Contract**

The Committee received a report on progress made in setting up the contract for the maintenance of the Brigade's breathing apparatus (BA) sets with the current supplier, Draeger UK, which had been approved by the Authority in April 2003 (Minute No. 29/03).

Lengthy consultation had been undertaken with key stakeholders with a view to implementing the transfer of maintenance of BA sets to Draeger UK. Negotiations had now been concluded and contract terms agreed with the company. It was anticipated that the new service would be implemented with effect from 1st November, 2004.

The Authority had previously approved the disestablishment of a Sub-Officer post in BA Services following the award of the contract. In order to facilitate the implementation of the contract arrangements, it was now proposed to disestablish the post with effect from midnight on 31st March, 2005.

Resolved that the report be noted.

90/04 **Disposal of Obsolete Personal Protective Equipment**

The Committee received a report setting out proposals for the disposal, by sale and donation, of personal protective equipment (PPE) that had become obsolete as a result of the PPE Managed Service Contract.

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It was not proposed to invite tenders for the disposal of the equipment as the resale market was currently saturated, and potential buyers had been identified. A number of requests for donations of equipment to Paraguay and Uganda had also been received.

The Committee felt that if donations were to be made, some obsolete PPE should also be made available through the Authority's own arrangements with India, Pakistan and Goa.

Resolved:

- (1) that previously issued PPE equipment made obsolete by the implementation of the PPE (Structural Firefighting Kit) Managed Service Contract with Lion Apparel be disposed of by sale and donation as indicated in Appendix 2, with the proviso that the Officers also arrange for a proportion of the surplus boxes of used kit to be donated to India, Pakistan and Goa under the Authority's own arrangements;
- (2) that, in relation to the proposed donations to Uganda and Paraguay, the Committee notes that there are no implications under the Local Government (Overseas Assistance) Act 1993; and
- (3) that the disposal of equipment in accordance with Contract Standing Order exception 3.15 (h) be approved.

91/04 **Review of the Salary of the Chief Fire Officer and Principal Officer Team**

The Committee considered a report indicating that the recent National Joint Council (NJC) agreement on Principal Officers' pay and conditions for 2004 had provided for a minimum increase in salary, and recommended that each Fire Authority should be encouraged to undertake its own local review of pay levels, reflecting the additional workload and responsibilities arising from modernisation, and taking into account comparative salaries in other authorities. The Association of Principal Fire Officers had requested that such a review take place.

An indication of the changing role and responsibilities of the Chief Fire Officer and his Principal Officer Team was submitted.

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Resolved:

- (1) that the changing roles and responsibilities of the Chief Fire Officer and his Principal Officer Team be noted;
- (2) that an independent review of the salaries of the Chief Fire Officer and the Principal Officer Team be carried out in line with the recommendations of the NJC for Principal Fire Officers of Local Authorities' Fire Brigades;
- (3) that the Chief Executive of the West Midlands Local Government Association be asked to carry out the review and to make recommendations on revised salary levels taking into account the financial implications for the Authority.

(The Chief Fire Officer and other officers present at the meeting declared a prejudicial interest in this item, and withdrew from the meeting.)

(Meeting ended at 2.25 p.m.)

Members Allowances Scheme to be inserted

Disposal of equipment table to be inserted

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