

<p><b>Minutes of the Executive Committee</b></p>
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**27<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.

79/06 **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).

80/06 **New Fire Service Headquarters**

Further to Minute No 70/06, the Committee considered a report on the current position with regard to the new Fire Service Headquarters relocation project.

Negotiations were at an advanced stage with the Midlands Co-operative Society Ltd for the acquisition of land for the development of a new Headquarters. The Committee noted that in order to progress the negotiations it was necessary to enter into a Call Option Agreement on the terms now reported to allow the Authority the exclusive right to purchase the proposed site, subject to the option being exercised by 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2007. It was recommended that in order to comply with the project timescales, this agreement should be concluded during December, 2006.

Negotiations were also in hand with a view to purchasing an additional strip of land on the frontage of the site, but until these negotiations could be concluded it was intended to lease the land in question.

Further to resolution (2) of Minute No 70/06, the Committee was

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informed that tenders for the provision of Mechanical and Electrical consultancy with regard to the new Headquarters had been analysed, following which the tender was awarded to Engineering Services Consultancy Ltd for a fixed contract sum.

Further to Minute No 71/06, tenders received for the design and build of the new Headquarters had now been evaluated, and the Committee considered recommendations as to acceptance of a tender.

The updated financial implications of the relocation of Headquarters were reported.

A formal response had now been received from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport designating the existing Headquarters as a Grade II listed building. It was now intended to commence the marketing of the existing Headquarters site with a view to securing an agreement with a viable purchaser by May/June 2007.

It was further reported that it was necessary to relocate the existing Stores prior to its move to the new Headquarters to avoid the costs of electrical rewiring. Administrative staff would be moved to surplus accommodation at the existing Headquarters, and the remaining support staff, goods and equipment would be relocated to a short-term leased warehouse.

Formal planning approval for the development of the new Headquarters was awaited.

**Resolved:**

- (1) that, subject to satisfactory legal advice, the Clerk be authorised to enter into a Call Option Agreement in order to progress the proposed acquisition of the site for the new Headquarters;
- (2) that subject to successful acquisition of the main site and to the grant of planning approval, the Clerk be authorised to enter into an agreement for the assignment of the lease for a strip of land at the frontage of the proposed site of the new Headquarters for the unexpired term of 82 years;
- (3) that the appointment of Ashford Construction plc as the preferred contractor for the design and build of the new Fire Service Headquarters be approved, subject to contract and compliance with the 10 day waiting period required under

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the OJEU tender procedure;

- (4) that officers, in consultation with the Employers Agent, the Mechanical and Electrical Consultants and legal advisers, be authorised to refine the new headquarters specification in tandem with Ashford Construction plc to establish the final building contract documentation within the financial constraints previously approved;
- (5) that the total capital and revenue funding package in respect of relocation of Fire Service headquarters be approved for inclusion in the three year financial strategy for 2007/08 to 2009/10, including any prudential borrowing and temporary borrowing requirements necessary for the procurement of the site and the design and build, as now reported;
- (6) that authority be delegated to the Treasurer, in consultation with the Chair, to finalise the capital financial package in the most prudent manner beneficial to the Authority;

(Meeting ended at 12.55 pm)

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