

Minutes of the Executive Committee

4th April, 2005 at 10.00am
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Hinton (Chair);
Councillor Hogarth (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Howard and Underhill.

Apologies: Councillor Eustace.

27/05 **Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Self-Assessment Document**

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer informed the Committee that the Authority's CPA Self-Assessment had been submitted to the Audit Commission on 21st March, 2005.

The document provided background information about the Authority and provided summarised responses to the 'Key Lines of Enquiry' that formed the basis of the CPA.

The Authority had been subjected to peer challenge by a team from the West Midlands Regional Fire Authorities on 22nd and 23rd February, 2005 and feedback from this had been taken into account in preparing the final document. The peer challenge team had also assisted with the development of an improvement plan, which had been included in the final document.

Resolved that the content of the Authority's self assessment in preparation for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment be noted.

28/05 **Civil Contingencies Act 2004 – Change of Name of the Authority**

The Clerk reported that Paragraph 10, Schedule 2 of the Civil Contingencies Act, 2004 had come into effect on 1st April, 2005, under which metropolitan county and civil defence authorities would, from 1st April, 2005, be known instead as 'metropolitan county fire and rescue authorities'.

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The Act provided for continuity in that any reference to a 'fire and civil defence authority' would be treated as reference to a 'fire and rescue authority'. Work was ongoing however to ensure that all references to 'West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority' in legal and other official documentation were amended as necessary. The existing 'branding' of the Brigade as 'West Midlands Fire Service' would not be affected.

A further report would be submitted to the renamed authority, with a view to it formally authorising the Chief Fire Officer to instigate prosecutions on its behalf. The report would also deal with the delegation of responsibility to inspect premises/serve notices etc under the renamed corporate body and any other issues arising as a consequence of the name change.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority hereafter be known as the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority;
- (2) that a further report be submitted to the Authority on any actions needed in light of the change of name.

29/05 **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 terms proposed for the disposal/acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services and disclosure would be likely to prejudice the Authority.

29/05 **Mobile Data Software Upgrade**

Approval was sought to procure a commercial off the shelf software solution to enhance Mobile Data Technology facilities, using the Government Catalogue for Products and Services.

The estimated cost of purchase and installation was £152,000 and maintenance of the software was estimated at an annual cost of £28,000.

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It was anticipated that national software changes, as part of the regional control project, would now not be operational in 2008. The proposed solution was therefore an interim measure until it was known what system the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister would implement.

Members expressed concern around the costs, particularly in view of the possible short life-span of the software, and felt that the report should be referred to the Authority for a decision.

Resolved that the report be submitted to the Authority on 11th April, 2005.

(Meeting ended at 10.35 a.m.)

<p><i>Contact Officer: Stephnie Hopcroft Democratic Services Unit Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council 0121-569 3189</i></p>
