

<p>Minutes of the Executive Committee</p>
--

3rd July, 2006 at 11.00 am
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

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

Observers: Councillor Singh and Mr Topliss.

Apologies: Councillors Eustace and Howard.

34/06 **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 for the following reason:

Minute No. 35/06 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person [including the authority holding that information].

35/06 **New Fire Service Headquarters**

Further to Minute No. 10/06, the Committee was provided with an update of the progress made to date by the Project Team and informed that negotiations for the sites identified as Option B and C had proved abortive. A further potential site suitable for a replacement Headquarters had been identified by the Project Board. Details of the site and the anticipated acquisition costs were reported.

The Committee was informed that legal advice had been received that it was necessary to undertake the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) procurement process whereby expressions of interest and subsequent tenders would be invited based on the following options:

Executive Committee

3rd July, 2006

- a) Buildings constructed to the West Midlands Fire Service specification; or
- b) Provision of land of approximately 5 acres within a 5-mile radius of the current Headquarters and buildings constructed to the West Midlands Fire Service specification.

The Committee was also informed of the latest position with regard to the proposed disposal of the existing Headquarters, which it was now anticipated would become a Grade II listed building. The Authority's consultants, CB Richard Ellis, had submitted recommendations as to a number of options for the marketing of the site that were currently being investigated.

The Committee was reminded of the broad financial implications of the scheme to relocate the Headquarters, which were still relevant to the current proposals. The cost of any necessary planning applications and provision for the purchase of a site could be met from the approved Headquarters Relocation Capital Scheme. The costs associated with the results of the OJEU tender exercise would be the subject of a further report in due course.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Sandwell Council's Head of Corporate Property, supported by the Authority's consultants, CB Richard Ellis, be authorised to enter into negotiations for the acquisition of the site now referred to, subject to contract and satisfactory completion of appropriate investigations into ground conditions, due diligence and planning consent;
- (2) that with a view to progressing the move to a new Headquarters building as a matter of urgency, in the event that it is not possible to secure the site referred to in (1) above, the Clerk, in consultation with the Chief Fire Officer, Treasurer, and the Chair and Vice Chair, be authorised to pursue any other viable site suitable for a replacement Headquarters with a similar specification and cost to the site referred to in (1) above, subject to contract and satisfactory completion of appropriate investigations into ground conditions, due diligence and planning consent; and

Executive Committee

3rd July, 2006

- (3) that an exception to Procurement Standing Orders be approved in respect of the purchase of a site and the provision of a replacement Headquarters in accordance with paragraph 3.15 (ii) thereof as the provision of goods, services and works are obtainable only from one supplier and no satisfactory alternative is available;
- (4) that further reports be submitted to the Authority setting out the outcomes relating to the acquisition of a suitable site and the OJEU tendering process.

(Meeting ended at 11.30 am)

<p><i>Contact Officer: Georgina Wythes Democratic Services Unit Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council 0121-566-3791</i></p>
