

## **Minutes of the Executive Committee**

**11<sup>th</sup> October, 2010, at 12.30 pm**  
**at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham**

**Present:** Councillor Eustace (Vice-Chairman) – in the Chair;  
Councillors Alden, Chambers, Clinton, Davies, Douglas-Maul, Foster, Idrees, Jackson, Ryder and Stevenson.

**Apology:** Councillor Hinton (Chairman).

**Observers:** Councillors Docker, Jones, Mulhall, O'Neill, Spence, Turner and Walsh;  
Mr Ager and Mr Topliss.

### 22/10 **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2010, be approved as a correct record.

### 23/10 **Placed Based Budgeting**

The Committee received a draft position statement regarding the contribution of the Service to the Government's proposals on Place Based Budgets.

**Resolved** that the Authority's position statement on Place Based Budgets, as now submitted, be endorsed.

### 24/10 **Lead Member Reports**

The Committee received verbal updates from Lead Members on their work:-

#### **Human Resources**

Councillor Chambers reported that he had been familiarising himself with The Plan, the National Framework and various internal strategies and policies. He had also attended a number of meetings with the Director Human Resources including one to ones, management teams

**Executive Committee**  
**11<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

and meetings with trades unions.

Other activities included undertaking a tour of the Safeside facility, and attending a seminar on the new single Equalities Act 2010. He was also due to visit the Training Academy on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010.

**Asset Management**

Councillor Davies reported that Training at Height facilities at Fallings Park and West Bromwich were completed in June 2010. Work on the Walsall and Sutton Coldfield facilities was due to start in 2011.

Refurbishment work at Solihull and Walsall fire stations had commenced and an application for planning permission for residential development on the site of Sedgley fire station had been submitted to Dudley MBC.

Councillor Davies also reported that solar panels had been installed on the roof of Safeside which would further improve the Authority's energy conservation.

**Performance Management**

Councillor Douglas-Maul reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the Audit and Performance Management Committee where statistics on the Authority's performance against the objectives in The Plan were received. The Authority was performing well against the targets, however, it had been noted that the BuS project may impact upon some of the performance indicators.

**Member Development**

Councillor Foster reported that he was regularly meeting with the Director Human Resources, the Director Corporate Services and the Clerk to take forward the work on member development. Member input was being sought through the Member Development Working Group. Specific projects that the working group was looking at included a buddying programme for new members and a members' handbook, which would provide a quick reference tool for members and signpost key documents.

The working group was also re-considering the Authority's decision to pursue the Member Development Charter. The dissolution of the West Midlands Leaders Board meant that the Authority was now likely to have to fund the assessment for the Charter and so consideration was being given as to whether this was a good use of resources in the current financial climate. It was felt that member development work could

**Executive Committee**  
**11<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

continue regardless of whether the Authority achieved the Charter. The recommendations of the working group would be submitted to the Authority for consideration.

Members were encouraged to take part in Personal Development Review meetings to ensure that any development needs could be addressed.

**Equality and Diversity**

Councillor Spence referred to the recent presentation to the Policy Planning Forum.

**Chair of the Joint Consultative Panel**

Councillor O'Neill reported that the Joint Consultative Panel was currently considering the allocation of facilities time to Unison and the re-constitution of elected member appeal panels.

(Meeting ended at 12.44 pm)

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Contact Officer: Stephnie Hancock Democratic Services Unit Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council 0121 569 3189</i></p>
--