

Minutes of the Executive Committee

10 October 2016 at 1000 hours
Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Idrees (Vice Chair)
Councillors Allcock, Singh Atwal, Cartwright,
Dad, Davis, Sealey, Singh

Apologies: Cllr Mottram

7/16 Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 21 March 2016

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2016, be approved as a correct record.

8/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

9/16 Future Governance Working Group Sounding Board Terms of Reference

Richard Bacon, Director, Price Waterhouse Cooper, addressed the Committee via Telephone Conference Call. Richard introduced himself as the Independent Chair of the Future Governance Working Group and stated that he had over 30 years' experience of working with local government and had worked with both the Police and Health Services, but had not worked directly with Fire before.

The Committee were given an outline of the purpose of the Group following the Authority recommendation to commence their work in February. This had been brought about

following the issue of the Police and Crime Bill, the (then) Home Secretary's (Theresa May) speech and the pending duty for all blue light emergency services to collaborate in an efficient and effective way.

A strong Working Group had been set up including five Members of the Fire and Rescue Authority and a broad spectrum of external professionals including:

Phil Loach, Chief Fire Officer
Jonathan Jardine, Chief Executive, Office of the PCC
Judy Foster, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Simon Brake, Coventry and Warwickshire NHS
Barbara Watts, Royal Society of Public Health
Tony Yeoman, Deputy Chairman, NHS England
Brian Nash, Home Office
Paul Faulkner, Birmingham Chambers of Commerce
Keith Ireland, Chief Executive, Wolverhampton
Karen Gowreesunker, Clerk to the Fire Authority
Satinder Sahota, Monitoring Officer

A number of members of West Midlands Fire Service are involved in the preparation of papers and facilitation of meetings.

The Group had discussed the Terms of Reference at the first meeting and had looked at areas of collaboration at the second meeting. The third meeting had addressed areas of Risk, Vulnerable Persons Officers, Data and Emergency Planning with the aim to evaluate these areas against the possible future governance options agreed by the working group.

The Group planned to look at the possibilities around collaboration first and governance secondly, as it was felt to be more important to understand the potential to deliver future services in a more collaborative (efficient and effective) way.

The Group had identified the possible future governance options for West Midlands Fire Service and would be evaluating these options before Christmas. The findings and

draft documents would then be produced in the New Year and presented to the Authority in February 2017.

The Chair thanked Richard Bacon for a succinct summary of the progress of the Working Group. It was noted that there would be a second feedback session at the Executive Committee on 12 December 2016, where it was felt there would be more meaningful evaluation feedback.

The Chair confirmed that the Working Group would be meeting twice during November and the dates of the meetings were included in the Terms of Reference attached to the pack of papers for the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 1018.

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