

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

31st January, 2005 at 10.00 am
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

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

Observers: Councillors Birbeck, Davies, Rogers, Ryder, Singh, Ward
and Mr Topliss.

9/05 **Consultation with Non-Domestic Rate Payers**

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Committee met to consult with representatives of non-domestic ratepayers on the setting of the Authority's budget and precept for 2005/2006. The Treasurer gave a presentation on the draft budget proposals.

Mr R Richardson of Richardson Developments and Mr T Carroll from Black Country Chamber of Commerce attended the meeting and addressed the Committee.

The Committee thanked the representatives for attending and for their comments as part of the budget setting process.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the representations and comments received be noted;
- (2) that a report on the budget and precept for 2005/2006 be submitted to the Authority on 14th February, 2005.

10/05 **Minutes of the West Midlands Regional Management Board**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meetings of the West Midlands Regional Management Board held on 26th November, 2004 and 25th January, 2005.

Executive Committee
31st January, 2005

11/05 **Best Value Performance Indicators – Outturn Data up to 30th November, 2004**

The Committee was informed of the latest performance of the Brigade, against performance indicators contained in the Authority's Best Value Performance Plan for 2004/2005.

Resolved that the outturn data against the best value performance indicators detailed in the Authority's 2004/2005 Best Value Performance Plan to 30th November 2004, be noted.

12/05 **Attendance of Members at Events in 2005**

Further to Minute No. 110/04 the Committee received a report setting out the conferences and seminars scheduled for 2005.

Members discussed the costs and merits of the attending the various events.

It was reported that provision was made for such attendances as part of the budget setting process.

Resolved that arrangements be made for attendance by the appropriate member(s) at the following conferences and seminars in 2005:-

- LGA Annual Fire Conference, Portsmouth - 15th to 16th March;
- Standards Board Conference, (venue tba) – 5th to 6th September
- Fire Conference, Manchester – 1st to 3rd November

13/05 **National FiReControl Project: Regional Response to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's (ODPM's) Consultation Documents Relating to the Outline Business Case Volume 1 and Finance and Governance**

It was reported that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister had recently circulated two consultation documents for comment as part of an ongoing consultation process on the national FiReControl project.

Executive Committee

31st January, 2005

The first document, the Outline Business Case, had been sent to the Chairs of Regional Management Boards (RMBs) for a regional response. The second document, relating to Fire Control Finance and Governance, was also sent to RMBs and Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) to seek views on recommendations made by the Fire Control Finance Working Group.

The Committee's views were sought on the West Midlands RMB's draft response.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the consultation documents issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister relating to the Outline Business Case, and the Fire Control Finance and Governance be noted;
- (2) that the response of the West Midlands Regional Management Board be endorsed and forwarded to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

(Meeting ended at 1.08 p.m.)

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