

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND CIVIL DEFENCE AUTHORITY

26TH JULY, 2004

1. **ACTION ON MATTERS OF URGENCY**

Joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and Clerk

RECOMMENDED

THAT the report be noted.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To report on action taken on matters of urgency, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 **National Mutual Aid Agreement**

Fire Service Circular 8/2004 dealt with two issues; a National Mutual Aid Agreement in the event of a major incident and the Incident Response Unit Terms and Conditions. The first of these two issues required an urgent response to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister by 8th April, 2004.

A National Mutual Aid Agreement was enclosed with the Circular requesting individual Fire Brigades to sign the Agreement to confirm their willingness to participate in giving support to other Brigades on a national basis should the scale of any incident require large scale support. The Circular acknowledged that local arrangements exist but the Agreement would complement and extend the local arrangements and bring them into the national arena. The final draft Agreement was agreed by the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association (CACFOA) and the Local Government Association (LGA).

Approval was given for West Midlands Fire and Civil Defence Authority to join the National Mutual Aid Agreement and for officers to sign the documents accordingly by the deadline set by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

3.2 **Refurbishment of Bournbrook Community Fire Station (mechanical, electrical and structural cabling)**

Tenders for the refurbishment of the Bournbrook Community Fire Station (mechanical, electrical and structural cabling) were opened by the Executive Committee (Minute 44/03 refers). The contract was awarded to Yates and Reece Ltd. In the sum of £263,728.00.

On 7th April, 2004, the administrator acting on behalf of Yates and Reece Ltd. advised that the contractor would not be continuing with the works. However, the electrical and mechanical works needed to be progressed in line with the main building works being undertaken at the station. Discussions were held with Hills Electrical and Mechanical plc, the company who had submitted the second lowest tender, who agreed to undertake the works. Due to minor areas of completed works and materials on site, the company revised its tender sum to £296,898.86. This was in excess of their original tender sum as firm prices from supplies had to be obtained and these were higher than originally anticipated.

Approval was given for the work to proceed as a matter of urgency as any delay would have had an adverse impact on the final completion date and subsequently impede the full return to normal working conditions and accommodation for personnel. Additional funding of £33,170.86 was required to engage Hills Electrical and Mechanical plc.

4. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

5. **CORPORATE AIM SUPPORTED**

The principal corporate aim supported by the information in this report is as follows:

1. To meet the Authority's statutory duties, standards and expectations.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications arising from the National Mutual Aid Agreement (see paragraph 3.1 above) cannot be quantified at this stage as they would depend upon the scale of an incident requiring the agreement to come into force and the extent of this Brigade's involvement.

The costs involved with the works at Bournbrook Community Fire Station (see paragraph 3.2 above) were accommodated within the overall capital scheme budget.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letters to the Chair and Vice-Chair.

F J E SHEEHAN
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

F N SUMMERS
CLERK