

Minutes of the Executive Committee

9th June, 2005 at 12 noon
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

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

Observers: Councillors Birbeck, G Davies, S Davis, Douglas-Maul,
Foster, Idrees, Jones, Mulhall, Ryder, Tagger, and Ward;
Mr Topliss.

44/05 **Approval of the Authority's Best Value Performance and Business Plan**

The Committee considered a draft copy of the Authority's Best Value Performance and Business Plan 2005/06.

The Authority at its meeting on 11th April 2005 had approved the Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Corporate Aims, the top seven Business Plan objectives, the Departmental objectives and the Ten Year Scan as set out in the draft now submitted for consideration.

The Committee, in response to a question from a member, discussed the targets against which performance was to be measured in 2005/06. The Chief Fire Officer assured Members that targets were set at a realistic level and the successful achievement of many of these targets was the result of improvement in service delivery.

The Lead Member for Performance Management undertook to review the proposed performance targets for 2006/07 at the appropriate time to ensure that they continued to be realistic and challenging.

Resolved that the Best Value Performance and Business Plan for 2005/06 be approved.

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45/05 **'A Code for the Future' – Consultation on a Review of the Code of Conduct for Members**

The Clerk reported that the Standards Committee had met on 3rd June, 2005 to formulate a response to the Standards Board for England to their consultation on a review of the Code of Conduct for Members. All members of the Authority had been invited to submit comments to the Standards Committee on the review.

A copy of the response formulated by the Standards Committee was circulated for this Committee's consideration. The consultation period ended on 17th June 2005 and the Executive Committee was therefore asked to approve the response on behalf of the Authority.

Resolved that the response be approved for submission to the Standards Board for England.

46/05 **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 follows:

Minute No. 47/05 – relating to negotiations or consultation on labour relations matters and disclosure would be likely to prejudice those negotiations.

Minute No. 48/05 – relating to advice in connection with legal proceedings and the determination of a matter affecting the Authority.

Minute No. 49/05 – relating to particular employees.

47/05 **Fire Service Control Centre Re-organisation – Human Resources Issues**

The Committee considered a report with regard to Fire Brigades' National Employers' Circular EMP 13/05, which gave guidance on the implications for Brigades' human resources of the Government's intention to create eight new Regional Control Centres in England. The announcement of the location of the West Midlands Control Centre was

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imminent, and the Authority needed to have in place suitable arrangements for those staff affected by the creation of the Regional Control Centre.

However, further clarification was still awaited from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as to what financial assistance would be available to Fire Authorities under the New Burdens arrangements to cover costs arising from the move to regional control rooms.

Resolved:

- (1) that the Committee notes the contents of Circular EMP 13/05;
- (2) that the Committee approves the development of policies for redundancy, relocation, redeployment and retention based in principle upon the guidance set out in Circular EMP 13/05;
- (3) that a further report on the potential human resources issues arising from the introduction of a Regional Control Centre be submitted once the details of the actual location have been announced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

48/05 **Fresh Litigation Proceedings against the Authority by AP (UK) Ltd, Wolverhampton**

The Committee were advised that fresh litigation proceedings had been commenced against the Authority by AP (UK) Limited of Wolverhampton in respect of a serious fire at their premises in 1999.

Resolved:

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that an exception to Contract Standing Orders be approved to allow the solicitors who defended the previous proceedings to be retained in this case.

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49/05 **Outcome of Disciplinary Appeals to the Secretary of State**

The Chief Fire Officer reported on the outcome of two disciplinary appeals to the Secretary of State.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the determination of the Secretary of State in respect of an appeal by Firefighter MW against an award of dismissal under the Fire Services (Discipline) Regulations 1985 be noted;
- (2) that the determination of the Secretary of State in respect of an appeal by Firefighter MP against an award of dismissal under the Fire Services (Discipline) Regulations 1985 be noted;
- (3) that the course of action now outlined in respect of Firefighter MP be approved.

(Meeting ended at 12.40 pm)

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