

<p><b>Minutes of the Executive Committee</b></p>
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**9<sup>th</sup> July 2007, at 9.30 am**  
**at Fire Service Headquarters,**  
**Lancaster Circus Queensway, Birmingham**

**Present:** Councillor Howard (Chairman);  
Councillor Ward (Vice-Chairman);  
Councillors S Davis, Hinton, Idrees and Jackson.

**Observers:** Councillors Birbeck, Hussain, Mulhall, Turner and Wilkes  
and Mr Topliss.

**Apology:** Councillor Foster.

28/07 **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 21<sup>st</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2007 be approved as a correct record.

29/07 **Analysis of Progress Towards Key Objectives and Best Value Recommendations – Quarterly Reports 2006/2007**

The Committee noted the progress towards key objectives and Best Value Review recommendations from October 2006 to March 2007.

30/07 **Confirmation to the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding Fire Control Transition Governance, Roles and Responsibilities**

The Committee was informed that a letter had been received from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) setting out sixteen principles with regard to Fire Control Transition and Governance Roles and Responsibilities in relation to the transfer of functions to Regional Control Centres.

The Authority was asked to confirm its understanding of and active support

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for the sixteen principles and confirm that it had adequate project management structures, or would ensure such structures were in place by the end of September 2007.

It was also suggested that the West Midlands Regional Management Board should consider the matter with a view ensuring a co-ordinated response from the constituent fire authorities.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Chairman be authorised to sign the response to Communities and Local Government to indicate the Authority's support for the sixteen principles in relation to Fire Control Transition, Governance Roles and Responsibilities for the transfer to Regional Control Centres;
- (2) that the West Midlands Regional Management Board be requested to consider the matter with a view to supporting the Authority's response.

**31/07 Amendment of Scheme of Delegations to Chief Officers**

The Committee was asked to delegate authority to the Chief Fire Officer to appoint inspectors under Article 26 – Enforcement Order of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, which had come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006.

The Order reformed the laws relating to fire safety in non-domestic premises by amending, revoking or repealing various pieces of legislation and applied to all premises, including Fire Service premises.

The Committee was also asked to amend the list of delegations to Chief Officers to reflect changes in fire prevention legislation.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) that authority be delegated to the Chief Fire Officer to appoint inspectors under Article 26 – Enforcement Order of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and that the scheme of delegation be amended accordingly;
- (2) that the Clerk be authorised to amend the scheme of delegations in accordance with the changes in fire prevention legislation now reported.

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**32/07 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 amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**33/07 Command and Control System and Integrated Risk Management Plan Delivery**

The Committee was informed that the Brigade's current command and control system was nearing the end of its useful life. The system had been purchased in 1994 with a maximum life expectancy of ten years. Since 2004 the Service had provided its own maintenance for the system, which had created several risks for the Authority. Because of its age and limited technology, the system could not be developed or upgraded to keep up to date with the modernisation agenda and the Service's business needs and the degree to which the system was unfit for purpose would increase year on year.

Early indications envisaged that the Service would be moving its command and control function to the Regional Control Centre (RCC) in 2007. However, this date had subsequently been put back to 2009. The technical assessment of the current system indicated that, should the cut over date be delayed beyond 2009, the Service could no longer assure that the system would remain viable. Current information from the Government indicated that the cut over would now take place in March 2010. As part of the transition process, the Authority was required to maintain its current system for twelve months beyond the cut over date. In addition, the system would still be required to provide control of resources in delivering services that would not be supported by the RCC, which would also have implications for integrated risk management strategies.

In view of the risks posed by the current system and the possibility that the cut over date for the implementation of the RCC could be delayed further, it was proposed to purchase a new command and control system and integrated risk management support system. The new system would enable effective delivery of the Service's plans and strategies and would

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provide scope to support further new developments.

The estimated capital cost of a new command and control system was £975,000. Funding of £500,000 had been identified as part of the Authority's 2006/2007 close-down of accounts. The remaining £475,000 would need to be met from savings in the current financial year.

Additional revenue costs of £200,000 would be incurred in supporting and maintaining the new system. No funding had currently been identified to support this and this would need to be considered as part of the Authority's 2008/2009 budget setting process. Following the receipt and evaluation of tenders for the new system, a further report would be submitted setting out the proposed funding package.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) that approval be given to proceed with the tender process for the purchase a new command and control and integrated risk management support system;
- (2) that a further report on the proposed purchase be submitted following tender evaluation, setting out the proposed funding package and including an analysis of the benefits of procuring the new system.

**34/07 Tenders for Design and Build of Car Park at New Fire Service Headquarters**

The Committee opened two tenders received in respect of the above works, in the following amounts:

£692,598.26;  
£1,009,767.00.

The estimated cost of the work was £600,000 to £750,000.

**Resolved** that subject to:-

- (a) the checking of the tender;
- (b) the preparation of a formal contract by the Clerk;
- (c) any necessary comments from the Government Departments concerned;

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the tender submitted by Wrekin Construction Limited, in the sum of £692,598.26, being the lowest received, be accepted.

(Meeting ended at 10.24 am)

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