

Minutes of the Executive Committee

**10 December, 2012, at 10.00am
at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham**

Present: Councillor Edwards (Chair);
Councillor Idrees (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Aston, Clinton, Davies, Davis, Douglas-
Maul and O'Neill.

Observers: Councillors Chambers, Delaney, Hogarth, Sealey,
Spence, Tranter and Ward.

Apologies: Councillors Finnegan and Foster.

22/12 'The Plan' 2013-2016

The Committee received an update on progress with the development of 'The Plan' for 2013-2016 and was asked to approve the proposed changes.

'The Plan' outlined the strategic direction for the Authority covering a three year period and contained the vision, four key priorities (Communities and Partnerships, Response, People and Value for Money), outcomes, strategic objectives and corporate performance indicators. The revised Plan also set out how services would be delivered in support of this and the outcomes of the CSS.

The proposed changes to 'The Plan' remained in draft whilst a public consultation exercise was underway on the Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), which had been re-branded Community Safety Strategy (CSS). The CSS set out in detail how the Service had used its risk analysis in its planning process and the ten key consultation questions for the public to respond to.

Resolved that approval be given to the draft key priorities (Communities and Partnerships, Response, People and Value for Money), strategic objectives and service outcomes as a basis for development of 'The Plan' for 2013-2016.

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23/12 Improving Local Government Transparency – Consultation 2012

It was reported that a government consultation was taking place on proposals to make regulations requiring local authorities, including fire and rescue authorities, to publish data falling within certain descriptions of information specified in the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency (the Code).

The Code asked all local authorities to follow three principles of transparency when publishing data they held; responding to public demand; releasing data in open formats available for re-use; and releasing data in a timely way. This included data on senior officers' pay, the structure of their workforce, tenders, contracts, councillor expenses, voluntary sector funding, meetings and frontline service data. This was on a voluntary basis however and so application of the Code currently varied across authorities.

The consultation proposed amendments and additions to the Code to facilitate greater clarity as to what data must be published, when and in what format. It also added clarity as to what the requirements would be under the proposed regulations.

The Authority's proposed response to the consultation had been circulated to members for comment. The closing date for responses to the Department for Communities and Local Government was 20 December, 2012.

Resolved that the proposed response to the government's consultation 'Improving Local Government Transparency' be approved.

24/12 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved that the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting. This is to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under 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).

ILO - Unclassified

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25/12 **Contract for Annual Servicing and Repairs to Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and Associated Equipment**

Approval was sought to the award of a two-year contract to Drager for the annual servicing and repairs to self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and associated equipment.

The Committee was informed that the current contract was due to expire on 31 January, 2013. A review of the costs of continuing with an outsourced service against the potential benefits of bringing the service in-house had been undertaken in order to establish the best value for money approach. As part of this review, discussions had also taken place with Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority to establish whether their in-house service could take on the contract. However, the review had concluded that neither option would provide a suitable alternative for West Midlands.

Members noted that work was underway to set up a framework that may provide economies of scale in the future, however the framework would not be complete in time to assist the Authority with the current contract.

The Committee noted the detailed financial implications of the proposed contract.

Resolved that approval be given to the award of a contract for the annual servicing and repairs to self-contained breathing apparatus and associated equipment to Drager for a period of two years.

(The meeting ended at 10.27am)

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