

**Minutes of the Executive Committee**

**9th June, 2014 at 10.00 am  
at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham**

**Present:** Councillor Edwards (Chair);  
Councillor Idrees (Vice-Chair);  
Councillors Aston, Douglas-Maul, Hogarth, Finnegan;  
and Shackleton.

**Apologies:** Councillors Davis and O'Reilly.

**Observers:** Councillors Chambers, Clinton, Collingswood,  
Delaney, Mottram, Sealey, Singh and Spence.

12/14 **Minutes**

Members noted that with regard to Minute No. 5/14 (Councillor Foster), the date which he would be standing for parliamentary election was May 2015 and not 2014.

**Resolved** that, subject to the amendment as indicated above, the minutes of the meeting held on 24th March, 2014, be approved as a correct record.

13/14 **Member Development**

Further to Minute No. 9/14 (24th March, 2014), the Committee received a report on proposals for a mentoring programme for newly elected members of the Authority. It was proposed that each newly elected member would have two mentors; one being an experienced member to provide day to day support on a range of matters related to the member role and the other being the Operations or Station Commander local to the member to provide local knowledge and information.

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It was also proposed that the role of Group Leaders in inducting new members would be to identify suitable member mentors prior to the induction programme on 7th July, 2014.

The proposals would support the principles of good governance and the Service's commitment to the Investors in People standard. They also aligned with the organisation's 'Buddy' Scheme which had been introduced for the Service's employees.

Members commented on the seemingly high rate of turnover of Station Commanders. It was hoped that this would abate in the near future.

**Resolved** that the introduction of a mentoring programme for newly elected members be approved and introduced as part of the induction session to be held on 7th July, 2014.

14/14

**Firefighter Recruitment Processes Review – Recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee received the findings and recommendations of a review undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee on the Firefighter Recruitment Processes.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee emphasised the comprehensiveness of the report and that the recruitment process had appointed 55 Firefighters in its first phase and a further 53 in its second phase.

The Chair personally thanked members and officers of the Human Resources Team for their contribution towards the review.

The recommendations were amended by the addition of the names of those officers who would be responsible for their action.

**Resolved** that the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Firefighter Recruitment Processes review, as contained within the Appendix, as now amended, be approved.

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15/14      **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 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).

16/14      **Proposed High Speed (HS) Rail 2 Route – Update 2**

Further to Minute No. 32/14 of the Authority (14th April, 2014), members received an update on the developments with HS2 negotiations. On 29th April, 2014 the deadline for the submission of petitions was announced by HS2 as being 16th May, 2014 and consequently a Parliamentary Agent was appointed to comply with these timescales and a petition was submitted by the due date. A copy of the petition was appended to the report.

Further meetings had been held with HS2 representatives who had provided solution options to a number of functional site issues, including the Warehouse and Distribution Section, the Emergency Maintenance Services Section and options for practical issues such as car parking facilities. However, no solution options had been provided to the Service's other areas of concern, most notably the impacts on Fire Control and the vehicles and equipment that allowed emergency response activity.

The three main areas of concern were:-

- The ability to respond and to react to emergency incidents, particularly during the development stage of the project;
- Security in and around the site, particularly during the development stage of the project;
- Overall considerations with regard to the ability of the various Departments and Sections on the site to operate and deliver general business continuity.

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Based on the options that had been provided to date by the HS2 representatives consideration had been given to the viability of all functions currently undertaken from the site continuing to operate. The outcome of these considerations had resulted in a number of options being identified which it was felt appropriate to ask HS2 representatives to consider in terms of disturbance to the site and options as to how those impacts could be mitigated (these were attached as Appendix 2 to the report).

Members discussed the timeline which would be applicable to the process and the financial burden it was likely to have on the Authority. In response, it was reported that construction of HS2 was likely to commence in 2017 and that some of the costs incurred might be retrievable.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) that the Chief Fire Officer be authorised to undertake negotiations based on the proposed course of action for the Headquarters site specific issues outlined in Appendix 2 to the report.

(The meeting ended at 10.25 am)

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