

Minutes of the Executive Committee

7th June 2010, at 9.30 am

at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Ward (Chairman);
Councillor S Davis (Vice-Chairman);
Councillors Alden, Clinton, Douglas-Maul, Gazey,
Hinton, Jones [substitute member], O'Neill and Ryder.

Apologies: Councillor Eustace and Idrees.

Observers: Councillors Foster, Turner and Skinner.

8/10 **Urgent Business**

The Chairman was of the opinion that the items referred to in Minute No. 12/10 and 13/10 below should be considered as urgent items of business under Section 100B of the Local Government Act, 1972 as instructions were required on these matters and the decisions could not wait until the meeting of the Authority to be held on 28th June, 2010.

9/10 **Analysis of Progress towards Key Objectives – 2009/10 Quarter 4**

The Committee noted the progress made towards delivering the Departmental and Operations Command Areas' 2009/10 Action Plans. A detailed review of the progress made, including the reasons for non-completion of particular milestones, had been carried out at the regular meeting with the Lead Members for Performance Management.

The Committee noted that one major piece of work could not be delivered until the outcome of the regional Fire Control project was clear. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer indicated that there had been discussions with officers from Communities and Local Government about the future of the Regional Fire Control project and reports would be submitted to the Authority in due course.

Resolved that the Chief Fire Officer be requested to congratulate his staff on their success in meeting the majority

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of the targets set for 2009/10, some of which had been met ahead of schedule.

10/10 **Performance Indicators**

The Committee noted the progress against performance indicators set out in the Authority's Annual Service Plan for 2009/10.

The Lead Member for Performance Management indicated that the Authority was working to challenging targets, some of which were outside the control of the Service and needed to be addressed through fire prevention work.

Members asked for more information to be provided in future reports as to the reasons why targets had not been achieved.

Members also requested information on performance on attendance times at incidents. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer undertook to report to a future meeting on this matter.

11/10 **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 any individual.

12/10 **Appointment of Assistant Chief Fire Officers**

The Committee was informed that a long-listing exercise had been conducted for the two vacancies of Assistant Chief Fire Officer as a result of which it was recommended that none of the candidates should be referred to the Appointments Committee for shortlisting or interview. Two of the candidates were considered suitable to be invited to cover the vacancies on a temporary basis, and it was proposed to advertise the posts again in twelve months' time. The Executive Committee was asked to endorse this course of action.

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Resolved:

- (1) that no candidates be put forward to the Appointments Committee for interview at this time;
- (2) that Area Commander David Walton be temporarily promoted for a period of up to 12 months to the post of Assistant Chief Fire Officer Technical and Operational Support;
- (3) that Area Commander Philip Hales, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service be offered a temporary secondment to the post of Assistant Chief Fire Officer Operations;
- (4) that the two posts of Assistant Chief Fire Officer be re-advertised in 12 months' time.

13/10 **Appointment of Independent Members – Standards Committee**

The Committee was advised that vacancies for three independent members on the Standards Committee had been advertised in accordance with the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008. The only applications received were from two of the retiring members, who were entitled to apply for re-appointment. The Appointments Committee had delegated power from the Authority to shortlist applicants for interview; to interview those shortlisted; and to make a recommendation to the Authority as to the persons to be appointed.

As no fresh applications had been received, and as the two applicants were experienced independent members who had served the Authority well, it had been proposed to recommend to the Appointments Committee that they be re-appointed without interview. As the Appointments Committee was not now to meet, the Executive Committee was asked to approve this recommendation as a matter of urgency for submission to the full Authority at its meeting on 28th June, 2010.

Resolved to recommend to the full Authority that Mr David Denny and Mr Colin Topliss be re-appointed as independent members of the Standards Committee.

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14/10 **Thanks to retiring Members**

The Committee noted that a number of Members would not be serving on the Fire Authority in 2010/11. Retiring members moved votes of thanks to the officers for their past support. Members thanked the Chairman for the courteous manner in which he had conducted the business of the Authority during his tenure and wished him all the best for the future.

(Meeting ended at 10.07 am)

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