

<p>Minutes of the Executive Committee</p>
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23rd October, 2006, at 12 noon
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Hinton (Chair);
Councillor Hogarth (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Bowen, Eustace, Howard, Idrees, and Ward.

Observers: Councillors Birbeck, S Davis, Douglas-Maul, Gazey, Singh,
and Tagger;
Mr Topliss.

57/06 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd and 24th July and 11th September, 2006 be confirmed as a correct record.

58/06 **Best Value Performance Indicators – Data for 2006/2007 to 31st August, 2006**

The Committee noted the data against the Best Value performance indicators as set out in the Authority's Best Value Performance Plan for 2006/2007, for the period up to 31st August 2006.

59/06 **Long Term Capability Management - Roadshow**

The Committee was informed of a series of roadshows being held by the Department for Communities and Local Government dealing with issues relating to resilience under the subject of Long Term Capability Management.

Two Principal Officers and two Elected Members had been invited to attend the roadshow scheduled for 31st October, 2006, in Nottingham.

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Resolved that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority, or their nominees, be authorised to attend the roadshow on Long Term Capability Management on 31st October, 2006, and that their attendance at the event be regarded as an approved duty for the purpose of claiming travel and subsistence allowances.

60/06 **Quarterly Internal Audit Reports**

Further to Minute No. 32/06 of the Authority (26th June 2006), the Committee was reminded that additional functions had been delegated to the Executive Committee to strengthen the role of Elected Members in monitoring audit activity. A summary Internal Audit report, which had been discussed in more detail at the Policy Planning Forum held earlier in the day, was noted. It was proposed to report to the Policy Planning Forum and the Executive Committee quarterly to improve member involvement in audit activity in line with the Comprehensive Performance Assessment Use of Resources recommendations.

The Committee discussed whether it would be preferable to monitor audit activity through an Audit Committee. The Authority's external auditors had advised that fire authorities were not obliged to appoint such a Committee. The Committee concluded that the current proposals would give more Members the opportunity to involve themselves with the process.

Resolved:

- (1) that the submission of a quarterly Internal Audit Summary to the Policy Planning Forum and the Executive Committee be approved;
- (2) that the arrangement be reviewed at the Annual Meeting of the Authority in June 2007.

61/06 **Technical Pensions Advice**

Further to Minute No. 13/06 (3rd April 2006) Members noted the outcome of a trial period for the provision of technical pensions advice to Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority (ST&SFRA).

During the course of the arrangement the level of support required to

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ST&SFRA had not been as significant as was anticipated and it was therefore considered that an ongoing formal arrangement was not required. It was anticipated that ad hoc mutual assistance would benefit both organisations. Any specific pieces of work required would be undertaken based on an hourly charge of £25.

62/06 **Outstanding Business**

The Committee noted a report outlining outstanding items of business.

63/06 **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 consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matters arising between the Authority and employees of or office holders under the Authority.

64/06 **Annual Service Plan 2007/2008**

The Committee received the draft Annual Service Plan 2007/2008 consultation document and a proposed consultation strategy.

The Authority's Corporate Board had approved a revised business planning process in May 2006, which had resulted in the production of an Integrated Risk Management Strategy (now re-named the Corporate Strategy) and a Service Plan. The Service Plan would serve the purpose of the former Integrated Risk Management Action Plan.

The Service Plan was subject to public consultation for a period of twelve weeks and the consultation strategy described it was proposed to organise the consultation process.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the draft Annual Service Plan 2007/2008, as now submitted, be approved for consultation;
- (2) that the proposed consultation strategy in connection with the Annual Service Plan 2007/2008, as now submitted, be

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approved.

65/06 **Update on Joint Review of Shift System for Station Based Operational Personnel**

Further to Minute No. 17/06 (3rd April 2006), the Committee received a further update on the outcome of the joint review of the shift system for station based operational personnel and the financial implications of the interim arrangements in force until the new shift system was fully operative.

(Meeting ended at 12.30 pm)

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