

# **Minutes of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority**

**30<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, at 12 noon**  
**at the Fire Service Headquarters, 99 Vauxhall Road, Birmingham**

**Present:** Councillor Howard (Chairman);  
Councillor Ward (Vice-Chairman);  
Councillors Ali Khan, Chambers, Clinton, Delaney,  
Douglas-Maul, Eustace, Gazey, G Davies, S Davis;  
Hinton, Idrees, Jones, Mulhall, O'Neill, Robinson, Ryder,  
Singh, Skinner, Spence, Stevenson, Sutton, Tagger,  
Turner, Tweddle and Ward.  
Mr Ager and Mr Topliss.

**Apologies:** Councillor Alden;  
Mr Bagley and Mr Denny.

## **22/09 Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Howard declared a personal interest in the item referred to in Minute No. 29/09 below (Routine Maintenance and Emergency Repairs of Appliance Bay Doors, Roller Shutter Doors, Barriers and Gates Maintenance).

## **23/09 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting and made reference to the following:-

- The recent appointment of Vijith Randeniya as Chief Fire Officer. Members congratulated Mr Randeniya on his appointment.
- Assistant Chief Officer Doug Tweddle would soon be retiring from the Fire Service. The Authority thanked Mr Tweddle for his many years of service and wished him well for the future.
- The West Midlands Fire Service had won the prestigious RoSPA Occupational Health and Safety Award 2009. The Gold Award would be presented at the National Exhibition Centre on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.

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- Funding in the total of £300,000 had been secured from Birmingham City Council to support the Birmingham Road Safety Partnership. The Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman and officers for all their hard work in securing the funding for the Partnership.
- The Brigade was currently part way through its Operational Performance Assessment and a report would be submitted on the outcome of the assessment in due course.
- A bid for a Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors award in respect of the Headquarters building and Safeside had been submitted under three categories:-
  - (a) Community Benefit;
  - (b) Regeneration;
  - (c) Sustainability.
- Members were reminded that the official opening ceremony of Headquarters was to be undertaken by his Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2009.
- The West Midlands Fire Service Website had been re-launched.

### **24/09     Appointment to the Authority**

The Clerk reported that at the Authority meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2009, the Authority declared a vacancy and served notice on Dudley Council to make an appointment to the Authority (Minute No. 10/09).

On 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2009, notification was received from Dudley Council that Councillor G Davies had been re-appointed to serve on the Authority. The appointment took effect immediately.

Members welcomed Councillor Davies back to the Authority.

### **25/09     Amendment to the Constitution of the Executive Committee**

The Clerk reported that at the Authority meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2009, the Chairman was authorised to select a Member of the Authority to work with officers as Lead Member in respect of the implementation of the Property Asset Management Plan (Minute No. 6/09).

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The Chairman had nominated Councillor Gazey as the Lead Member for the Property Asset Management Plan.

The Lead Members with portfolio responsibilities for Performance Management, Human Resources and Equality and Diversity were currently Members of the Executive Committee. This ensured that these key issues were properly represented in the mainstream decision making processes and governance arrangements of the Authority. It was recommended that the Lead Member for the Property Asset Management Plan was also appointed to the Executive Committee.

The addition of the new Lead Member would not affect the political balance of the Committee.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Chairman's nomination of Councillor Gazey as the Lead Member in respect of the Property Asset Management Plan, be endorsed;
- (2) that the membership of the Executive Committee be increased from eight Members to nine to include the Lead Member for the Property Asset Management Plan.

**26/09      Road Casualty Reduction Team External Funding**

The Authority was informed that following the successful delivery of a Road Casualty Reduction Roadshow in schools across all seven city and metropolitan districts, it was proposed to create a dedicated Road Casualty Reduction Team (RCRT) to deliver services in partnership with other road safety specialists in the city and metropolitan districts, and a funding bid had been submitted to the West Midlands Road Safety Group.

The RCRT work would enable the Brigade to support partners in meeting targets set against National Indicators 47 (people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents) and 48 (children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents).

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The funding from the West Midlands Road Safety Group would enable the creation of the RCRT for a two year period within the Fire Service. It would be sufficient to cover all of the salary, transport and the supplies and services costs incurred by the proposed RCRT.

The Authority's contribution to the RCRT would consist of the provision of premises for the staff and use of Brigade vehicles in support of specific events, which would be met from existing resources.

**Resolved** that the acceptance of external funding totalling £382,000 over a two year period from the West Midlands Road Safety Group, to support the creation of a Road Casualty Reduction Team, be approved.

27/09     **Minutes of the Appointments Committee**

The minutes of the meetings of the Appointments Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, were received.

28/09     **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 for the following reasons:-

- (a) Minute No. 29/09 – exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information);
- (b) Minute No. 30/09 – exempt information relating to any individual and relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

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29/09     **Routine Maintenance and Emergency Repairs of Appliance Bay Doors, Roller Shutter Doors, Barriers and Gates Maintenance**

The Authority was informed that tenders had been received for Routine Maintenance and Emergency Repairs of Appliance Bay Doors, Roller Shutter Doors, Barriers and Gates Maintenance.

The contract had previously been let on an annual basis, but by awarding it for three years with the option to extend for a further twelve months, it had been possible to reduce the price of planned maintenance and also reduce the labour cost for the first hour of each call out.

Following a detailed analysis of the tenders, approval was now sought to award the contract to Kenrick Door Systems Ltd who had scored highest in the evaluation exercise which had taken into account overall cost and quality of service offered.

All costs would be met from within the existing specific budget provision for this service.

**Resolved** that Kenrick Door Systems Ltd be awarded the contract for the Routine Maintenance and Emergency Repairs of Appliance Bay Doors, Roller Shutter Doors, Barriers and Gates, subject to the statutory ten day standstill period.

(At this point all officers of West Midlands Fire Service, left the meeting.)

30/09     **Post of Chief Fire Officer**

The Clerk reported that the Executive Committee was authorised to consider and make recommendations to the Authority on the conditions of service and salary of the posts of Chief Fire Officer, Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Assistant Chief Officers. The Committee was also authorised to deal with all matters of an urgent nature which could not be reasonably delayed to the next ordinary meeting of the Authority or appropriate Committee.

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It was reported that on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, the Executive Committee considered advice from Tribal Resourcing, the Authority's consultant for recruitment to the Chief Fire Officer's post, and authorised the Chairman to offer a salary up to £160,000 per annum to the successful candidate for the Chief Fire Officer post.

The Appointments Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, made an offer of the post on these terms.

The Authority was also informed that a further report would be submitted to the Executive Committee in due course with regard to the Brigade senior management structure.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) that the action taken by the Executive Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, with regard to enhancement of the salary of the Chief Fire Officer, be endorsed;
- (2) that the salary of £160,000 per annum for the Chief Fire Officer, with the removal of the provision of the use of a car, be approved.

(Meeting ended at 12.31 pm)

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