

Minutes of the Executive Committee

15th March 2010, at 12 noon
at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Ward (Chairman);
Councillor S Davis (Vice-Chairman);
Councillors Alden, Clinton, Douglas-Maul, Eustace,
Gazey, Idrees, O'Neill and Ryder.

Apology: Councillor Hinton.

Observers: Councillors Singh and Skinner.

2/10 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 14th December, 2009 and 25th January, 2010 be approved as a correct record.

3/10 **'Family Learning with the Fire Service' Project funded by the Big Lottery Fund**

The Committee was informed that the Authority had won a bid for Big Lottery Funding of £93,274.20 for a 'Family Learning with the Fire Service' project. The project involved providing joint learning activities for children and parents, which provided clear learning outcomes and would be delivered in the form of Fire Intervention, Reparation and Education (FIRE) courses. This was a one week programme designed for young people who were excluded or on the verge of being excluded from schools. The course would be modified to take into account the needs of the "Family Learning" element.

The project would target the Wolverhampton and Walsall areas, which ranked 28th and 45th (out of 354) respectively in the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation (2007). Voluntary and community organisations had been identified in the most deprived areas within the towns to help deliver the project. 24 courses would be run over 2 years, enabling the following outcomes for 240 children and 120 adults:-

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- Increased opportunities to improve practical skills.
- Improved awareness of the consequences of anti social and unsafe behaviour.
- Improved team working skills enabling them to enjoy learning together.
- Improved confidence.
- Improved knowledge of home and road safety.

Resolved that approval be given to accept funding of £93,274.20 from the Big Lottery Fund to deliver a 'Family Learning with the Fire Service' Project.

4/10 **'Wolverhampton Anti-Social Behaviour Prevention' Project funded by Safer Wolverhampton Partnership**

The Committee was informed that the Authority had won a bid for funding of £133,670 from Wolverhampton Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership to deliver an anti-social behaviour prevention project.

Wolverhampton ranked 28th (out of 354) in the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation (2007). The 'Wolverhampton Anti-Social Behaviour Prevention Project' would be delivered in the form of Fire Intervention, Reparation and Education (FIRE) courses and mentoring for 180 people (including young people and their families) and would enable the following outcomes:

- Improved awareness of the consequences of anti-social behaviour and unsafe behaviour.
- Team working skills enabling them to enjoy learning together.
- Improved confidence and self-esteem.
- Improved knowledge of home and road safety.
- Life choices.

Resolved that approval be given to accept funding of £133,670 from Wolverhampton Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership to deliver the 'Wolverhampton Anti-Social Behaviour Prevention Project'.

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5/10 **'The Plan' 2010-2013**

Further to Minute No 3/10 of the Authority (15th February 2010), the Committee received 'The Plan' (formerly the Corporate Strategy) 2010-2013 for consideration. The document set the strategic direction for the Fire Service, in line with the Government's Fire and Rescue Service National Framework.

The Plan incorporated outcomes from a recent consultation on the priorities and budget proposals for the Service, which had involved Authority Members, the public and stakeholders. The document would be subject to periodic reviews to ensure that the content remained valid and relevant, having regard to changing influences. This would also ensure that resources were targeted in the most effective way to deliver key priorities and objectives.

Resolved that approval be given to 'The Plan 2010-2013, as now submitted.

6/10 **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 the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including any individual and the authority holding that information).

7/10 **Corporate Board Structure**

The Committee was informed of a number of changes that the Chief Fire Officer had made to the Corporate Board structure, following his appointment in March 2009. The Committee was now asked to approve the changes.

In order to remove limits on the Authority's ability to properly determine appropriate levels of pay for respective principal officer roles, it was also recommended that the percentage link with the Chief Fire Officer's salary be removed.

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It was noted that the Association of Principal Fire Officers had advised the employers' side of the National Joint Council that, in light of current financial pressures in the public sector, and in recognition of the tough year ahead for Fire and Rescue Services, it would not be seeking a national pay settlement. Consequently, it was proposed that no pay increases were awarded to principal officers in the current financial year.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the post of Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Director Operations Support) be deleted from the establishment;
- (2) that Mr T Prosser continue in the post of (Acting) Assistant Chief Fire Officer, until such a time as a permanent appointment is made;
- (3) that the post of Head of Human Resources be re-designated Director of Human Resources;
- (4) that the post of Head of Finance and Procurement be re-designated Director of Finance and Procurement and that a new contract of employment be issued to reflect additional responsibilities now carried out by the post holder;
- (5) that the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, begin negotiations with the relevant principal officers to remove the percentage linkage with the Chief Fire Officer's salary from their terms and conditions of employment;
- (6) that principal officers do not receive a pay increase in the current financial year.

(Meeting ended at 12.35 pm)

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