

Minutes of the Executive Committee

10th September 2007, at 12 noon
at Fire Service Headquarters,
Lancaster Circus Queensway, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Howard (Chairman);
Councillor Ward (Vice-Chairman);
Councillors S Davis, Foster, Hinton and Jackson.

Observers: Councillors Birbeck, Gazey, Ryder and Turner and Messrs
Bagley and Topliss.

Apology: Councillor Idrees.

42/07 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 23rd April, 21st May and 11th June 2007 be approved as a correct record.

43/07 **Community Call for Action (CCfA) – Birmingham City Council Pilot**

The Committee was informed that the Brigade was participating in a pilot study with Birmingham City Council to develop local and central guidance around delivering the CCfA process and associated Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) process as outlined in the Police and Justice Act 2006.

CCfA was a mechanism which would allow members of the public who were dissatisfied with service provision or any such issues of community concern to ask their local councillor to call for action from the local authority and its partners (mainly those within Local Strategic Partnerships and Crime and Disorder Partnerships). Issues that could not be resolved through normal mechanisms could be referred to Overview and Scrutiny Committees for consideration.

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Although the pilot related to the development of guidance to support CCfA as contained in the Police and Justice Act, it was likely that any lessons learned would be taken into account when developing supporting guidance for the same CCfA process in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill.

OSC and CCfA would ensure effective delivery structures and improved accountability of partnerships and their communities and would give local people more influence over the services and decisions that affect their communities thus ensuring effective and accountable strategic leadership; and facilitate more direct community engagement enhancing the Service's reputation and providing stronger links to communities. It would also provide an opportunity for the Service (as well as the community) to challenge other responsible authorities to ensure that support was provided in delivering the service to the community.

Recent changes to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced the requirements to set up a Strategy Group as part of the Crime and Disorder Partnerships (CDRP's). The Service, as a 'responsible authority' under the Act, would be a partner in these strategy groups. A requirement of the amended legislation would be for the Service, if requested, to attend 'face the people sessions'. Until OSC and CCfA commenced next year, this would be the minimum standard, requiring one or more open meetings a year, attended by senior representatives of the CDRP to discuss community safety with the community.

The lessons learned from the pilot and the implementation of any supporting regulations and guidance would assist the Service in preparing for similar provisions for OSG and CCfA being made under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill in 2008. The duration of the pilot including timeline for completion would be discussed by the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership at its next meeting on 19th September 2007. A further up-date on the pilot would be reported back to the Committee in due course.

44/07 **Best Value Performance Indicators – Data for 2007/2008 up to 31st July 2007**

The Committee noted the data against the operational Best Value performance indicators as set out in the Authority's Best Value Performance Plan for 2007/2008, for the period up to 31st July 2007.

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45/07 **Donation to the United Kingdom Fire Service Memorial**

Approval was sought to make a donation of £3,000 to the United Kingdom Fire Service Memorial Trust (UKFMT) to assist in establishing a memorial to the nation's fallen firefighters.

The UKFMT was a section of the Firefighters' Memorial Charitable Trust Fund that was established in 1990. The intention of the fund was the commissioning, dedicating and unveiling of a national memorial to the men and women of the UK fire services, who gave their lives in the course of their duties during the aerial bombardment of World War II; and holding an annual service of remembrance.

The current memorial to fallen firefighters was a temporary structure and was in a poor state of repair. The donation of £3,000 would be met from within existing budgets.

Resolved that an donation of £3,000 be made to the United Kingdom Fire Service Memorial Trust (UKFMT) to assist in establishing a memorial to the nation's fallen firefighters.

46/07 **Analysis of Progress Towards Key Objectives – First Quarterly Report 2007/2008**

The Committee noted progress made towards key objectives and Best Value Review recommendations from April to June 2007.

47/07 **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 the authority holding that information).

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48/07 **Corporate Risk Register**

The Committee was asked to approve a number of amendments to the Corporate Risk Register, following the quarterly review undertaken in July 2007 by the Corporate Board.

Following the review, and as a result of the significant progress made in relation to the risk 'Representative Bodies and Industrial Relations', the Corporate Board had agreed that this risk should be removed from the register.

The Board also agreed that a new risk - 'Failure to maintain the current Command and Control function, resulting in an inability to receive, process and respond to emergency calls effectively' – should be added to the register.

There were no changes to the likelihood or impact of the other risks and Corporate Board was satisfied with the current control measures agreed by the Authority at its meeting on 12th February 2007.

Resolved that the amendments made to the Corporate Risk Register be noted and approved.

49/07 **Replacement Command and Control System**

Further to Minute No. 33/07 (9th July 2007), the Committee received three tenders for the above works.

Resolved that officers analyse the tenders and submit a further report.

(Meeting ended at 12.48 pm)

<i>Contact Officer: Stephnie Hancock Democratic Services Unit Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council 0121-569-3189</i>
