

Minutes of a Meeting of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

Agenda Item 4

16th February, 2015 at 11.00 am
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Edwards [Chair];
Councillor Idrees [Vice Chair];
Councillors Aston, Singh Atwal, Barlow, Clinton,
Collingswood, Davis, Delaney, Douglas-Maul, Eustace,
Hogarth, Lines, O'Boyle, Phillips JP, Quinnen, Sealey,
Shackleton, Singh, Skinner, Spence, Tranter, Yardley
and Young.

Apologies: Councillors Finnegan, Howells and Mottram JP;
Mr Ager.

1/15 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Edwards declared a non-disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute No. 5/15 below (Monitoring of Finances).

Councillor Aston declared a non pecuniary interest in Minutes Nos. 8/15 (2015/2016 Property Asset Management Plan) and 13/15 (Aston Fire Station Development) below as his work base was at Aston Fire Station.

2/15 **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair advised members that the public proceedings of meetings of the Authority could now, like any other local authority meetings, be filmed, blogged, twittered, etc.

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The Chair reminded members that visits had been arranged to the workshops at Perry Barr this afternoon and also on 2nd March, 2015. A visit had also been arranged to the Heritage Museum site following the Policy Planning forum on 23rd March, 2015. Members were asked to let Julie Connor know if they wished to attend, at the end of the meeting.

The Chief Fire Officer apologised to members for the lack of heating in the meeting room. An annual inspection of the heating system had been undertaken at the weekend and it required some specialist attention. He advised members that a Policy Planning Forum was to be arranged concerning the work of the Fire Investigation Team with station operations. Due to the work of the Team in Quinton in October 2014 an arsonist had recently received a two year prison sentence; Watch Commander Amanda Burton had raised the alert to this incident as she thought it was suspicious.

The Chief Fire Officer circulated to all members a copy of the 2013/14 Police and Fire Edition of a Parliamentary Review which included the West Midlands Fire Service. This was a good news story as it was endorsed by the Prime Minister. Councillor Skinner relayed the personal appreciation of the Fire Minister to the Fire Service and the Chair of the Authority. The Chair commented that he and the Chief Fire Officer had so far been unable to arrange a visit of the Fire Minister to the West Midlands. He asked Councillor Skinner to use his good offices to encourage the Minister to visit.

3/15 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November, 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

4/15 **Budget and Precept 2015/2016 and Budget Forecast 2016/2017 to 2018/2019**

The Authority considered a report on the Capital Programme for 2015/16 to 2018/19, the prudential indicators relating to the Authority's capital financing requirements, the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, the Treasury Management Strategy, the revenue budget and the consequent precept level and resultant amount payable by each constituent District Council.

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The Comprehensive Spending Review had indicated that grant funding for fire and rescue authorities would be reduced by 25% over a four year period and that the largest portion of the reduction would occur in years 3 and 4 of the settlement. The Authority's grant reduction was 27% (£22m).

On 18th December 2014, the Minister for Local Government had announced the provisional settlement for 2015/16 at £61.943m resulting in a grant reduction of £6.212m. This was £0.370m lower than the provisional figure previously provided. The Government also proposed a referendum threshold of 2% for any local authority increasing its Council Tax and the option for local authorities to accept a Council Tax Freeze Grant equivalent to a 1% Council Tax increase.

On 4th February 2015, the Department of Communities and Local Government confirmed the Authority's 2015/16 total grant figure, with no change to the grant figure announced in the provisional settlement resulting in total grant funding of £61.943m.

It was now proposed to introduce a Band D Council Tax increase of 1.99% in 2015/16.

The Strategic Enabler, Finance and Resources highlighted the amendment to the proposed MRP policy contained within the Treasury Management Strategy, in line with reference made to this matter at previous Policy Planning Forums and gave assurances in accordance with sections 25-27 of the Local Government Act 2003 that the budget preparation had been robust and that the level of reserves was sustainable and sufficient.

The Chair reiterated that the proposals would enable the Authority to set a balanced budget despite a £6.2m cut in resources and that this had only been possible due to the additional £5 precept increase last year. The main concern for the Authority was the proposed cuts in grant for future years and when the "tipping point", which would result in the degradation of service provision, was likely to be reached. This would lead to a reduction of community safety in the West Midlands.

Members thanked the Strategic Enabler, Finance and Resources and his team for a report which was easily understandable and discussed various implications to continue to provide an effective and efficient Service due to future proposed cuts and the additional risks this would create. It was requested that the role undertaken by the Service with regard to road safety should be highlighted, as local authorities were reducing financial provision in this area.

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Resolved:-

- (1) that the Authority's Revenue Budget for 2015/2016 of £36.211m as now submitted, be approved;
- (2) that the Authority's capital programme for 2015/2016 to 2018/2019, as now submitted, be approved;
- (3) that the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy, which includes the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, and the Prudential Indicators, as now submitted, be approved;
- (4) that it be noted that the constituent District Councils have formally set their Council Tax bases for the year 2015/2016 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as follows:

	Tax Base
Birmingham	234,089.00
Coventry	74,296.20
Dudley	85,902.74
Sandwell	68,103.35
Solihull	72,505.00
Walsall	65,147.51
Wolverhampton	<u>59,103.95</u>
	<u>659,147.75</u>

- (5) that the following amounts be now calculated by the Authority for the year 2015/2016 in accordance with Sections 40 to 48 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - (i) £103,339,270 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 42A (2)(a) to (d) of the Act;
 - (ii) £67,128,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 42A (3)(a) to (b) of the Act;

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- (iii) £36,211,270 being the amount by which the aggregate at (5)(i) above exceeds the aggregate at (5)(ii) above calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 42A (4) of the Act as its council tax requirement for the year;
- (iv) £54.94 being the amount at (5)(iii) above divided by the total amount at (4) above, calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 42B (1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;

(6) <u>Valuation Bands</u>	£ (to 6 decimals)	£ (rounded to 2 decimals)
A	36.624333	36.62
B	42.728388	42.73
C	48.832444	48.83
D	54.936499	54.94
E	67.144610	67.14
F	79.352721	79.35
G	91.560832	91.56
H	109.872999	109.87

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (5)(iv) above by the number which in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 47(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

- (7) Resultant precepts:

	£
Birmingham City Council	12,860,030
Coventry City Council	4,081,573
Dudley MBC	4,719,196
Sandwell MBC	3,741,360
Solihull MBC	3,983,171
Walsall MBC	3,578,976
Wolverhampton City Council	<u>3,246,964</u>
Total	<u>36,211,270</u>

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being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (5)(iv) above by the appropriate tax base at (4) above in accordance with section 48(2) of the Act, as the amount of precept payable by each constituent District Council;

- (8) that the precept for each District Council as calculated at (7) above be issued in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Councillors Barlow, Davis, Delaney, Douglas-Maul, Hogarth, Lines, Sealey, Skinner and Yardley abstained from voting on the above decision.

5/15 Monitoring of Finances

The Authority noted a report on the monitoring of finances to the end of January, 2015, which included revenue expenditure and the capital programme.

6/15 The Plan 2015 – 2018

Members considered the annual review of the Service's priorities, strategic objectives and outcomes which would be set out in the Service's rolling three year corporate strategy - The Plan 2015 - 2018.

The Chief Fire Officer reported on the factors he had considered in recommending that the priorities, strategic objectives and outcomes should remain the same as last year's Plan.

The Plan and corporate performance indicators and targets would be subject to review throughout the year to ensure they were still valid and relevant. Performance against the Plan would also be monitored on a regular basis by the Scrutiny Committee.

In response to a member's enquiry, the Chief Fire Officer reported that the approach which would be used by the Service, should any change be required to the Plan, included a continued focus on integrated risk management.

Resolved that the priorities, strategic objectives and outcomes for 2015 – 2016 be approved for inclusion within The Plan 2015 – 2018.

7/15 **Substantive Appointment to the Post of Deputy Chief Fire Officer**

Further to Minute No. 44/14 (Review of the Principal Management Team) (21st July, 2014), the Chief Fire Officer submitted a report on proposals to facilitate the appointment on a substantive basis to the post of Deputy Chief Fire Officer.

The Authority gave consideration as to whether it wished to carry out an external or internal recruitment process for the post.

Resolved:-

- (1) that an external recruitment process be followed for the appointment on a substantive basis to the post of Deputy Chief Fire Officer;
- (2) that the job description and personal specification as set out in the report be approved as the basis for recruitment.

8/15 **2015/2016 Property Asset Management Plan**

The Authority considered the proposed 2015/16 Property Asset Management Plan. Considerable work had taken place over the last twelve months to assess the appropriateness of existing property assets and to consider where any future investment should be directed.

In order to demonstrate the effective use of land and buildings, it was necessary to undertake a fundamental review of property assets which would also be flexible enough to respond to organisational changes. The Plan involved input from all the key West Midlands Fire Service stakeholders and reflected the property and property related priorities over the next five year period.

The Chair referred to the work that had been undertaken by officers in delivering the Plan. The Team concerned now had fewer officers yet was still delivering excellent work.

Resolved that the 2015/2016 Property Asset Management Plan, as now submitted, be approved.

9/15 **Statement of Assurance 2013/14**

The Authority received a Statement of Assurance document, which it was now required to publish annually under the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, to provide assurance on the previous year's activity on financial, governance and operational matters and show how it had due regard to the expectations set out in its integrated risk management plan.

The document was live and to this end there would be electronic links from it to other corporate documents referenced therein. This would enable the reader to evaluate and make a valid assessment of the Authority's performance.

Resolved the Statement of Assurance document for 2013/14 be approved.

10/15 **Pay Policy Statement 2015-2016**

Approval was sought to the Pay Policy Statement for the 2015/16 financial year setting out the Authority's policies relating to the remuneration of its Chief Officers.

Members were advised as to amendments which were required to the previous year's Statement and how and where the current information would be made available to the public.

The Chair reiterated that the Authority, unlike some other fire and rescue authorities, did not pay bonuses to its senior officers.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2015/16, as now submitted, be approved;
- (2) that the amended policy statements included in the report and the intention that the Deputy Chief Fire Officer be the 'specified person' with regard to determinations under the first stage of the Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure be approved.

11/15 **Pensions Board – Firefighter Pension Schemes**

Members received a report on the requirement under the Public Services Pensions Act 2013 for public sector pension schemes to establish a Pension Board for, in this instance, the Firefighter Pension Schemes (FPS). The regulations detailing the FPS had yet to be issued and the report was based on advice from a Public Sector Actuary organisation. It also provided background to help gain an understanding of the new requirements under the Act.

The Independent Public Service Pensions Commission known as the Hutton Review reported on 10th March 2011 and made a number of recommendations relating to Public Sector pensions including that “every public service pension scheme should have a properly constituted trained and competent pension board, with member nominees, responsible for meeting good standards of governance including effective and efficient administration”. The Public Service Pensions Act, 25th April 2013, enacted this with an effective date of 1st April, 2015.

The Pension Board was a new requirement under the Act, which had also specified that there should be equal numbers of member and employer representatives – currently proposed as 4. A Service Administrator would provide the necessary input into the Pension Board to support the Board to deliver on its assurance responsibilities. This would require their attendance at meetings for specified timeslots at the request of the Board.

The Act also required that “scheme regulations... must provide for a person to be responsible for managing or administering... called the Scheme Manager”. In the fire and rescue services the Scheme Manager would be the relevant Fire Authority. This responsibility could be delegated to a committee of the Authority.

The role of the Board was to assist the Scheme Manager in:-

- Securing compliance with Regulations relating to Governance and Administration.
- Other requirements detailed by the Pension Regulator.
- Other matters as detailed by the Regulations.

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In this role Board members must not have a conflict of interest. This was defined in the Public Service Pension's Act 2013 as "financial or other interest which was likely to prejudice the person's exercise of functions as a member of the Board". Due to the nature of the matters considered by the Appeals and Scrutiny Committees it was likely that such conflicts of interest could arise and it was therefore suggested that the Audit Committee would be the most appropriate to manage and administer the Scheme.

The Board had to have employer representatives and member/employee representatives in equal measure and could have independent advisors. The individuals on the Board were required to be conversant with the rules of the Scheme and any document recording policy about the administration of the Scheme and have knowledge and understanding of the law relating to pensions and such other matter as may be prescribed.

The role of the Board was one of oversight, not decision making, and it would not replace any existing committee. If the Authority, as Scheme Manager, delegated decision making to the Audit Committee the role of the Pension Board would sit alongside in the role of securing compliance.

Draft regulations from the Department for Communities and Local Government gave the expectation that there to be one Pension Board per Scheme Manager i.e. Authority. However, as part of the consultation response the Authority had stated that it would prefer to be able to share Pension Boards with neighbouring authorities in an effort to reduce costs and also introduce some standardisation of approach.

Members noted that further clarification was awaited as to whether an Independent Chair should be appointed to the Board and that appropriate training would be required for members of the Audit Committee and the Pensions Board.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the requirement to set up a Pension Board with the responsibility for "assisting the Scheme Manager", in securing compliance with all relevant pensions law, regulations and directions be noted;

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- (2) that the Authority as the Scheme Manager, delegate responsibility for managing and administering the Scheme to the Audit Committee;
- (3) that the Service be authorised to appoint two employer representatives and two scheme member representatives (employees) to the Pensions Board;
- (4) that the Service be authorised to determine whether an Independent Chair should be appointed to the Pensions Board.

12/15 **Proposed Vehicle Replacement Programme 2015 to 2018**

Approval was sought to proceed with the proposed Brigade Vehicle Replacement Programme (VRP) for the financial year 2015/16, based on the three year capital programme for 2015/16 to 2017/18 identified as part of the Authority's budget setting process.

The option of leasing vehicles would continue to be explored. When compared with the current method of procuring vehicles via the current framework agreement, the whole life costs of leasing were found to be more expensive.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Brigade Vehicle Replacement Programme for 2015/16 to 2017/18, as now submitted, be approved;
- (2) that the intention to procure a range of vehicles identified in the Vehicle Replacement Programme using the Crown Commercial Services Purchase Framework Agreement RM859, Open EU tenders and other approved Consortia routes that represent value for money to the Authority be noted.

13/15 **Aston Fire Station Development**

Further to Note No. 23/14 of the Policy Planning Forum (15th December, 2014) and Minute No. 8/15 (2015/16 Property Asset Management Plan) above, the Authority received a report on proposals for the development of Aston Fire Station.

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Officers had undertaken investigation and research into the possible options to relocate or redevelop Aston Fire Station and considered the benefits of moving to a new site in the Aston area or the modernisation and development of the existing site.

16 new sites were considered and an assessment of each site considered a number of factors to determine their suitability as an alternative location to the current fire station. Following completion of this work officers had now identified two options that supported the performance and trust of the Brigade and were value for money. Both options focused on the development of the existing site into a modern facility that met the needs of the Community and the Authority.

Members were supportive of the proposed course of action which would proceed with option one and, should that not prove viable, progress to option two.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the two options for the development at Aston Fire Station to serve the local communities be supported;
- (2) that the recommended first option, that a formal planning application and Listed Building Consent application are submitted to demolish and construct a new Fire Station in its current location, be approved;
- (3) that subject to option one, set out in (2) above, not being successful approval in principle be granted to the recommended second option to submit a formal planning application and Listed Building Consent application to refurbish and modernise the existing building;
- (4) that the estimated costs of both options be approved and that the Chief Fire Officer be authorised to approve the design features of the new Fire Station and associated buildings.

14/15 **Coventry Fire Station Redevelopment**

Further to Note No. 23/14 of the Policy Planning Forum (15th December, 2014) and Minute No. 8/15 (2015/16 Property Asset Management Plan) above, the Authority received a report on proposals for the redevelopment of Coventry Fire Station.

Officers had made investigations and researched the available options for the redevelopment of Coventry Fire Station. This had included consideration as to the best option to support service delivery and operational training. Options considered included the utilisation of the existing site or purchasing a new site to build a tri-Service building with associated training facilities. These options had also involved collaboration with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS), West Midlands Police (WMP) and West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS).

Members were informed of the three options for the fire station site and the hot fire training facilities. However, WFRS and WMP had not formally committed to the sharing of the new station or the provision of capital funding and although WMAS wished to continue to share the station, it was currently unable to commit capital funding to the redevelopment.

The option recommended for the approval of members would meet the business needs of the West Midlands Fire Service and WMAS and would allow collaboration to continue with other partner agencies until the planning and design stages of the project had been completed.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the three options for the redevelopment at Coventry Fire Station be noted;
- (2) that option one, to demolish the existing Fire Station and the construction of a new Fire Station on the existing site and the enhancement of the existing training facility through refurbishment and expansion, be approved;
- (3) that the estimated costs of option one be approved and that the Chief Fire Officer be authorised to approve the design features of the new Fire Station and training facilities.

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15/15 Minutes of the Audit Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January, 2015, were received.

16/15 Minutes of the Executive Committee

The minutes of the meetings held on 15 December, 2014, were received.

17/15 Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee

The minutes of the meetings held on 15 December, 2014 were received.

18/15 Notes of the Joint Consultative Panel

The notes of the meeting held on 10 November, 2014 were received.

19/15 Notes of the Policy Planning Forum

The notes of the meetings held on 10 November and 15 December, 2014, were received.

20/15 Exclusion of the Public

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, the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and any action taken, or to be taken, in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

21/15 **Planned Procurement Exercises for 2015/16**

Approval was sought to a number of planned tender exercises for goods and services during 2015/16, in accordance with Procurement Standing Orders.

Resolved that the following tender exercises for the provision of goods and services to West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority during 2015/16 be proceeded with:-

- (i) Electrical Inspection and Testing;
- (ii) Pump Rescue Ladders;
- (iii) Childcare Voucher Scheme;
- (iv) Energy;
- (v) Liquid Fuels;
- (vi) Cleaning Consumables;
- (vii) IT Hardware Refresh;
- (viii) Wide Area Network;
- (ix) Site Security System;
- (x) Relocation of Secondary Fire Control;
- (xi) Window and Door Replacements;
- (xii) Roofing Repairs and Replacements;
- (xiii) Interior and External Decoration;
- (xiv) Ablution Refurbishment;
- (xv) Ceiling Replacements;
- (xvi) Sale of Cradley Heath Fire Station;
- (xvii) Sale of The Academy.

22/15 **Governance of the Authority**

Members considered proposals to alter the governance arrangements of the Authority.

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1985, since the inception of the Authority on 1st April 1986, the functions of Treasurer to the Authority and Clerk to the Authority had been provided by Chief Officers at Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC). To enable compliance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government Act 2000, the role of Clerk to the Authority had also taken on the role of Monitoring Officer.

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As part of its approach to addressing Government funding reductions, SMBC had recently reviewed and reconfigured its strategic management team. It had also reduced its corporate services senior management team, from four posts to three. SMBC's Director, Governance, who also fulfilled the role of Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority, had recently taken up her new role in this team which had a more responsible and varied portfolio than her previously held post. The proposed recommendations would enable efficiencies to be made through capitalising on expertise which already existed amongst Service employees. This, in turn, would enable SMBC to free up capacity within its corporate services senior management team to focus upon delivering their new management roles. As part of the review's consultation process, SMBC's Chief Executive had engaged fully with the Chief Fire Officer (CFO).

This engagement had led to broader and meaningful discussions around how SMBC and West Midlands Fire Service could build upon their existing partnership with a view to identifying further opportunities for collaboration which would enable further efficiencies whilst enhancing the delivery of services that both organisations provided for the communities they served.

Senior officers from West Midlands Fire Service, working jointly with their peers at SMBC, had subsequently proposed a number of changes to revise specific elements of the WMFRA governance arrangements to ensure that they remained legally compliant. The recommendations made would enable efficiencies to be made through capitalising on expertise which already existed amongst Service employees.

It was proposed that the role of WMFRA Treasurer, with specific responsibility for the administration of the Authority's financial affairs, be undertaken by the Service's Strategic Enabler, Finance and Resources and that a role of Deputy Treasurer be designated to the post of the Service's Finance Manager.

The Local Government Act 1985 required that a Joint Authority appoint a person to be the Clerk to the Authority and in making the appointment the Authority shall have regard to the desirability of that person being the Chief Officer of a constituent Council of the Authority. Currently this role was undertaken by SMBC's Director - Governance who also fulfilled the role of Monitoring Officer. However, as WMFRA had been established as a Joint Authority for nearly 30 years, it was appropriate that WMFRA managed this area of functionality itself.

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It was therefore proposed that the role of Clerk to the Authority be re-designated to the Strategic Enabler, Principal Officer Support Team (POST). These new arrangements would provide the opportunity to build upon and strengthen the relationship between members and Service officers.

In support of the re-designation of the Clerk to the Authority role, it was proposed that the support provided to the Clerk to the Authority in ensuring the effective administration, operation and governance of WMFRA Committee framework be provided from within the Service's POST. The Service had the capability and capacity to deliver this support. In managing the specific requirements of this role, the Service would continue to move to a more efficient and effective use of its ICT capability provided by the Committee Management Information Services software.

It was considered that the assistance of SMBC's Democratic Services in supporting the transition to the new arrangements was absolutely critical to its success. Therefore officers from the POST and SMBC would work closely together to create a shared understanding of the clerking role and its functionality. In doing this, it was intended that the new role of Clerk to the Authority and the delivery of the activity to support this role would be fully functional to support the planning and delivery of the WMFRA Annual General Meeting on 29th June 2015.

In recognition of SMBC's recent restructure, there was an opportunity to re-define the role of Monitoring Officer to enhance and widen the business relationship between the two Services. In enabling this, it was proposed that the role of WMFRA Monitoring Officer be designated to the Assistant Chief Executive at SMBC. The Monitoring Officer had a specific legal and procedural duty to the Fire Authority. The Monitoring Officer would provide the first point of contact in all matters relating to the discharge of the role and would use the full range of existing legal resources to provide the Authority with high quality support and advice to ensure that the Authority remained legally compliant.

Where the Monitoring Officer was unable to due to illness or absence, it was proposed that this function be undertaken by a Deputy Monitoring Officer who was the Client Services Officer for Legal Services at SMBC.

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The Strategic Enabler, POST would liaise with SMBC's Assistant Chief Executive to ensure there was a shared understanding and transparency in the separation of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer roles. In order to assist with this, an appropriate memorandum of understanding would be produced which would clearly set out exactly what activity would be undertaken by the Monitoring Officer and the Clerk to ensure compliance with statutory requirements. As part of this approach, SMBC's Assistant Chief Executive would evaluate the WMFRA Monitoring Officer requirements on an ongoing basis.

It was reported that the proposals would enable a cost saving of at least 25% in comparison to the budget provision for the current arrangements.

Members were supportive of the proposals and expressed their appreciation to the Clerk and Monitoring Officer for all of her good works in ensuring that the Authority had complied with its legal and statutory obligations. The Chief Fire Officer also offered his thanks to her and her wider team at Sandwell.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Strategic Enabler, Finance and Resources be designated as the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority Treasurer;
- (2) that the post of West Midlands Fire Service Finance Manager be designated as West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority Deputy Treasurer;
- (3) that the functionality of the clerking role associated with administrating WMFRA be undertaken in-house by the Principal Officer Support Team and that the role of Clerk to the Authority be designated to the Strategic Enabler, Principal Officer Support Team;
- (4) that the post of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council's Assistant Chief Executive be designated as the Authority's Monitoring Officer;
- (5) that the Client Service Officer, SMBC Legal Services, be designated as the Authority's Deputy Monitoring Officer;

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- (6) that the new governance arrangements referred to in resolutions (1) to (5) above be implemented incrementally, where applicable, and be fully functional to efficiently and effectively support the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority Annual Meeting on 29th June 2015.

23/15

Action of the Chief Fire Officer in Consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority

The Chief Fire Officer reported on action which he had taken, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, to authorise the instigation of legal proceedings for failure to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

(Meeting ended at 1.10 pm)

Contact Officer: Rosemary Jones Democratic Services Unit Sandwell MBC 0121-569-3896
