

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

6th March, 2006, at 11.00 a.m.
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Hinton (Chair);
Councillor Hogarth (Vice-Chair);
Councillors S Davis, Douglas-Maul, Eustace,
Foster, Howard, Idrees, Jackson, Lawrence,
Matchet, Pitt, Rogers, Ross, Ryder, Singh,
Stevenson, Tagger, Wallace and Ward;
Mr Topliss.

Apologies: Councillors Birbeck, Bowen, Hussain, Jones,
Mulhall and Underhill.

16/06 Clerk to the Authority

Further to Minute No. 15/06, the Authority considered a report setting out the options for the clerking of the Authority consequent upon the retirement of the current Clerk from his post of Chief Executive of Sandwell Council with effect from 19th March, 2006. It was understood that his successor as Interim Chief Executive with Sandwell Council would not be taking on the role as Clerk to the Fire Authority as part of her job description.

The Authority was obliged to appoint a Clerk under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985.

The report set out three possible options for the clerking of the Authority:

- To ask Sandwell Council to reconsider its decision regarding the Chief Executive acting as Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority, or to consider nominating an appropriate Chief Officer to undertake the role;
- That the Authority consider creating a post of Clerk along

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the lines of the West Midlands Police Authority model;

- That the Authority consider allocating the role of Clerk to an existing Brigade senior officer.

It was anticipated that any of the three options could be accommodated within existing budgetary provision.

Resolved:-

- (1) that Sandwell Council be asked to reconsider its decision regarding the Chief Executive acting as Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority, or to consider nominating an appropriate Chief Officer to undertake the role, with a report consequent upon this reconsideration to be made to the Authority at its meeting on 24th April, 2006;
- (2) that the Treasurer assume responsibility for the clerking role, in addition to her current role, with effect from 20th March, 2006 until such time as revised arrangements for the clerking are agreed;
- (3) that the Chief Fire Officer produce a report on a review of clerking support services to be submitted to the Authority at its meeting to be held on 24th April, 2006.

Members noted that this was the last meeting to be attended by Nigel Summers in his role as Clerk. Members thanked Mr Summers for his many years of loyal service to the Authority, and for his advice and support during a period of great change for the service. Members expressed their best wishes to Mr Summers for an enjoyable retirement.

(The meeting was adjourned between 11.17 am and 11.39 am)

(Meeting ended at 11.40 am)

<p><i>Contact Officer: Georgina Wythes Democratic Services Unit Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council 0121-569 3791</i></p>
