

<p>Minutes of the Executive Committee</p>
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14th November, 2005 at 12 noon
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Hinton (Chair);
Councillor Hogarth (Vice Chair);
Councillors Eustace, Howard, Idrees and Lawrence.

Apology: Councillor Bowen.

Observers: Councillors S Davis, Douglas-Maul, Hussain, Jackson,
Jones, Ryder, Singh, Tagger, Underhill and Ward;
Mr Topliss.

86/05 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 25th July and 12th September, 2005 be approved as a correct record.

87/05 **Best Value Performance Indicators – Data for 2005/06 up to 30th September, 2005**

The Committee was informed of the Brigade's performance up to 30th September, 2005 against the incident-related Best Value Performance Indicators as set out in the Authority's Best Value Performance Plan 2005/06.

88/05 **Annual Efficiency Statements**

The Committee was informed that Fire and Rescue Authorities were now required to produce Annual Efficiency Statements to demonstrate that they were planning to, and in due course would, achieve their expected contribution towards the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Efficiency Target, and progress towards the target. Specific targets for individual authorities had not been set. The statements comprised a backward look setting out efficiency gains achieved in the past financial year, and a forward look outlining efficiency savings planned in the

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current financial year.

Statements in respect of this Authority were submitted for consideration.

Resolved that the Authority's Annual Efficiency Statements for 2004/05 and 2005/06 be approved for submission to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

89/05 **Policy in respect of the Authority's Employees Behaving in support of an Extreme Organisation**

The Committee considered a report setting out a proposed policy statement in respect of employees whose behaviour in supporting an extreme organisation whose constitution aims or pronouncements were contrary to the Authority's values and would undermine public confidence in the West Midlands Fire Service. Such a policy would support the Authority's duty to promote race equality under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Resolved that the following policy statement be approved:

'No employee of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority, either uniformed or non-uniformed, shall behave in any way that supports an organisation whose constitution, aims or pronouncements contradict the general duty to promote race equality and community cohesion.'

In view of the importance of public confidence of meeting the general duty, it is anticipated that non-compliance may result in dismissal.'

90/05 **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 relating to negotiations or consultation on labour relations matters and disclosure would be likely to prejudice those negotiations.

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91/05 **Notification of a Trade Dispute – Consequential issues arising from the outcome of the meeting of the Technical Advisory Panel - Update**

Further to Minute No. 85/05, the Committee was reminded that the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) had declared a trade dispute regarding three issues referred for local negotiation by the National Joint Council Technical Advisory Panel in June 2005.

The FBU had held a ballot on strike action that was carried by a majority of those voting. Notice had now been given of three occasions on which industrial action would be taking place: 6 pm to 9 pm on 14th November; 7 am to 10 am on 17th November; and 4 am to 7 am on 21st November, 2005.

The Committee reviewed the contingency arrangements put in place to provide emergency cover during periods of industrial action and the funding thereof. Members acknowledged that significant additional financial implications were already being incurred and would continue to escalate as the industrial action continued.

Advice was given on the legal position with regard to the industrial action and the options available to the Authority.

Negotiations were continuing in an attempt to resolve the trade dispute.

The Committee endorsed the actions proposed by the officers.

(Meeting ended at 12.43 pm)

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Contact Officer: Georgina Wythes</i> <i>Democratic Services Unit</i> <i>Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council</i> <i>0121-569 3791</i></p>
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