

<p><b>Minutes of the Executive Committee</b></p>
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**12th September, 2005 at 12 noon**  
**at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham**

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

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

**Apology:** Councillor Hogarth.

57/05 **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 23rd May and  
9th June, 2005 be approved as a correct record.

58/05 **Visit to Houses of Parliament by Members of the Authority –  
Approved Duty**

The Chief Fire Officer reported that a reception had been arranged for  
Members and officers of the Fire Authority at the Houses of Parliament  
on 9th November, 2005, to meet West Midlands Members of  
Parliament and Government Ministers, to discuss topical issues around  
modernisation of the service, Fire Control and Civil Contingencies.

**Resolved** that attendance by Members of the Authority at this  
reception be regarded as approved duty for the purposes of the  
payment of Members' allowances.

59/05 **Fourth Annual Assembly of Standards Committees**

The Clerk reported that the Chair of the Standards Committee was  
unable to attend the Fourth Annual Assembly of Standards  
Committees. Efforts had been made to obtain a substitute delegate but  
unfortunately these had not been successful.

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60/05     **Best Value Performance Indicators – Data for 2005/06 up to 31st July 2005**

Members were informed of the Brigade's performance up to 31st July, 2005 against the incident-related Best Value Performance Indicators set out in the Authority's Best Value Performance Plan 2005/06.

61/05     **Quotations Received in Excess of £50,000 – Quarterly Update**

The Committee noted a report setting out details of two quotations received in the last quarter in excess of £50,000.

62/05     **Minutes of Meetings of the West Midlands Regional Management Board**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meetings of the West Midlands Regional Management Board held on 10th June and 26th July, 2005.

63/05     **Outstanding Business**

The Committee received information with regard to outstanding items of business.

64/05     **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:

Minute No. 65/05 - negotiations or consultation on labour relations matters and disclosure would be likely to prejudice those negotiations;

Minute No. 66/05 - terms proposed for the disposal/acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services and disclosure would be likely to prejudice the Authority.

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65/05     **The Integrated Risk Management Action Plan – Third Year (IRMP III) 2006/07**

The Chief Fire Officer submitted the draft IRMP Action Plan for 2006/07 for consideration, together with a proposed consultation strategy for the Action Plan.

The Authority was required to produce and consult on an Action Plan in respect of the IRMP annually. The consultation would cost an estimated £25,000 that could be met from the existing budget. The Action Plan set out the Authority's plans for improving the service, and the continued drive to provide the most efficient, effective and economic service.

A further report would be presented following the consultation exercise.

**Resolved:-**

- (1)    that the draft IRMP Action Plan for 2006/07 be approved;
- (2)    that the proposed consultation strategy for the Action Plan be approved.

66/05     **Fire Service Headquarters Relocation Project**

Further to Minute No. 43/05, the Committee was informed that negotiations had taken place for the acquisition of new premises for the Fire Service Headquarters, and that a purchase price had been agreed. Approval was sought to proceed with the negotiations and to acquire the site.

A capital shortfall would need to be funded using Prudential Borrowing powers to enable the relocation, but the scale of this could only be estimated at present. It was proposed to revise the Authority's Prudential Borrowing limits to facilitate the acquisition of the new premises, and a further report on the specific scale of Prudential Borrowing necessary for the relocation would be submitted in due course when the actual costs of the full project were known.

The Chair thanked the Project Team for the enormous amount of work it had put in to bringing this important project to this advanced stage.

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**Resolved:-**

- (1) that approval be given to acquire the premises now referred to, on terms to be agreed, subject to securing satisfactory planning consent; and
- (2) that the Authority's approved borrowing limits be adjusted accordingly as detailed in Appendix 1 to accommodate the necessary Prudential Borrowing.

(Meeting ended at 12.20 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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**Appendix 1**

**PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS**

1.

<b>Capital Expenditure</b>			
	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
Approved 14/02/05	4,241	3,810	4,120
Revised	12,415	3,810	4,120

2.

<b>Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream</b>			
	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
Approved 14/02/05	3.24	3.31	3.34
Revised	3.32	3.62	3.63

3.

<b>Capital financing requirement</b>			
	<b>31/03/06</b>	<b>31/03/07</b>	<b>31/03/08</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
Approved 14/02/05	42,800	44,700	46,500
Revised	49,800	51,700	53,500

4.

<b>Authorised limit for external debt</b>			
	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Approved 14/02/05	53,500	55,900	58,200
Revised	60,500	62,900	65,200

5.

<b>Operational boundary for external debt</b>			
	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Approved 14/02/05	47,000	49,200	51,200
Revised	54,000	56,200	58,200

The impact of the increased interest costs arising from the capital investment decisions proposed, over and above capital investment decisions previously taken by the Authority, would be approximately £0.45 for the Band D Council Tax.