

Minutes of the Executive Committee

17th December 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, Idrees and Jackson.

Observers: Councillors Birbeck, Douglas-Maul, Eustace, Mulhall, Singh
and Tagger and Mr Topliss.

70/07 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 5th and 22nd
October and 12th November, 2007 be approved as a correct record.

71/07 Gender Equality Scheme 2007/10

The Committee considered a draft Gender Equality Scheme which had been drawn up in accordance with the Equality Act, 2006. The scheme would be subject to review every three years, and the Authority was obliged to report annually on progress in implementing the scheme.

Resolved that the Gender Equality Scheme 2007/10 as now submitted, be approved.

72/07 Partnership Arrangements – Oldbury Town Team and Sandwell Adult and Family Education/Online Learning Team

The Committee was informed that Sandwell Council's Oldbury Town Team currently occupied the major part of partnership accommodation at Oldbury Fire Station under a lease terminating at the end of March, 2008. Notice had been given that the Town Team would be vacating its accommodation at the end of the lease. The Council's Adult and Family Education/Online Learning Team occupied the remainder of the accommodation and it was proposed to continue the partnership

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arrangement and to enter into a new lease for that part of the premises.

The Adult and Family Education/Online Learning Team also wished to take a three-year lease of the community facility at the West Bromwich Community Fire Station, which was currently underused, to create an adult community learning centre. Sandwell Council would provide capital finance and equipment to enhance the existing facilities, and staff to operate the centre from 9.30 am to 9.30 pm, Monday to Friday, with the potential to expand to a seven-day service. The West Bromwich Young Firefighters Association currently used the community facility for 2 hours per week and this use could continue under the proposed partnership arrangement.

Partnership use of facilities at Oldbury and West Bromwich Fire Stations would provide opportunities for the Fire Service to engage with target communities in fire reduction activities such as Home Fire Safety Checks and to widen community engagement generally.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the proposal to renew the partnership arrangement with the Adult and Family Education/Online Learning Team in respect of part of the community facility at Oldbury Fire Station, and to enter into a new lease with Sandwell Council, on terms to be agreed, be approved;
- (2) that the proposal to enter into a formal partnership arrangement with Sandwell Council in respect of use of the community facility at the West Bromwich Community Fire Station by the Adult and Family Education/Online Learning Team, and to enter into a lease on terms to be agreed, be approved.

73/07 Quotations Received in Excess of £50,000 – Quarterly Update

The Committee noted a report detailing contracts awarded in excess of £50,000.

74/07 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

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as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 for the following reasons:

Minutes Nos. 75/07 and 76/07 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person [including the authority holding that information].

75/07 Supply and Installation of a Structured Cabling System at the new Fire Service Headquarters

With reference to Minute No. 69/07 (12th November, 2007), the Committee received a further report with regard to tenders received for the supply and installation of a structured cabling system at the new Fire Service Headquarters. The Committee had previously resolved to accept the lowest tender, subject to checking. The estimated cost of the works was £170,000.

Details of one additional tender in the sum of £160,846.60, which had been received on time but had not been available at the Committee meeting on 12th November, 2007, were submitted.

All seven tenders received had been evaluated in relation to compliance with the tender specification, quality, capability and capacity, experience and qualifications, project manager profile, price, insurance and warranty.

The lowest tender received from Workspace Technology failed to meet essential elements of the tender specification. The next lowest tender received from NTL/Telewest scored highly against the criteria outlined above, and it was recommended that this tender be accepted.

Resolved:-

- (1) the tender submitted by NTL/Telewest in the sum of £160,846.20, being the second lowest received, be accepted;
- (2) that the resolution to Minute No. 69/07 be rescinded.

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76/07 **Tenders for Ground Stabilisation, Resurfacing and Building Repairs – Bilston Fire Station**

The Committee was informed that five tenders had been received for the above works in the under-mentioned amounts [all excluding £15,000 contingency sum]:-

£233,640.00

£255,156.24

£261,624.02

£263,936.00

£314,434.00

All tenders received were in excess of the estimated cost of the works of £220,000.

Resolved that a further report on the tenders received be submitted in due course.

(Meeting ended at 12.29 pm)

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