

Minutes of the Executive Committee

6th September, 2010, at 12.10 pm
at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Hinton (Chairman);
Councillor Eustace (Vice-Chairman);
Councillors Andrew [substitute member], Chambers,
Clinton, Davies, Douglas-Maul, Foster, Idrees, Jackson,
Stevenson and Turner [substitute member].

Apologies: Councillors Alden and Ryder.

Observers: Councillors Docker, Jones, Mulhall, O'Neill, Spence,
Tagger and Whitehouse.

15/10 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th
June, 2010, be approved as a correct record.

16/10 **Approved Duty – Organised Station Events**

The Committee was advised that arrangements had been made for Birmingham Authority Members to attend a briefing on public engagement with regard to Birmingham North and South Operational Commands. Authority was requested for this briefing to be treated as approved duty for the purposes of the payment of travel and subsistence allowances.

It was also proposed to arrange similar events for other Authority Members within their own localities with the aim to increase the level of Member involvement with their Community Fire Stations. Authority was requested to grant approved duty status for all such meetings. This would be in addition to the two fire station monitoring visits per Member currently provided for in the Members' Allowances Scheme.

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Resolved:-

- (1) that the attendance of Fire Authority Members representing Birmingham City Council at a forthcoming briefing regarding Birmingham North and South Operational Commands be regarded as approved duty for the purpose of claiming travel and subsistence allowance;
- (2) that attendance by Members at up to six organised fire stations events in each of their Council areas per year be approved for the purpose of payment of travel and subsistence allowances, subject to the necessary budgetary provision being available.

17/10 Fire Appliance Attendance Times

The Committee noted performance of the Service against its targets for fire appliance attendance times at emergency incidents for the financial year 2009/10.

The Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan stated that the Brigade would aim to achieve an average attendance time of 5 minutes for the first fire appliance to all emergency calls, and an average attendance time of 7 minutes for the second appliance, where mobilised. Attendance times for the Targeted Response Vehicles (TRV) introduced to the Service in 2009 to deal with low risk, outdoor fires had been set at 20 minutes to reflect the low level risk attached to such calls and to enable the TRV to respond across a wide area.

During 2009/10 the Service had improved its performance on the previous year, with an average attendance time of 5 minutes 29 seconds for the first appliance and 7 minutes 2 seconds for the second appliance, in response to emergency calls. 46% of emergency calls were attended in less than five minutes. For secondary fires the Service had achieved 100 per cent success against the 20 minute standard.

At least part of the improvement in attendance times was attributed to the updated Command and Control facility established at the new Headquarters. The sustained improvement by the Service was in contrast to the national picture where attendance times overall were increasing.

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A further report would be presented in due course with regard to a possible review of performance standards on attendance times in the light of anticipated reductions in public expenditure.

Members expressed their appreciation to all staff who had contributed to this sustained improvement in attendance times and hoped that it would be possible to maintain and possibly improve this high standard. Members expressed the view that whilst it might be necessary to review performance standards in the light of the financial situation, every effort should be made to protect the Service's high standards, particularly with regard to serious incidents.

18/10 **Contract Awards Summary 1st April to 30th June. 2010**

The Committee received, in accordance with procurement procedures, a retrospective quarterly summary of contracts awarded in excess of £100,000.

One contract had been awarded in respect of catering services.

19/10 **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 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

20/10 **Planned Procurement Exercises 2010/11**

The Committee, in accordance with procurement procedures, received a report with regard to the rationale for a number of planned tender exercises and the proposed route to market and funding provisions.

Resolved that approval be given to proceed with the following tender exercises during 2010/11:

- (1) Replacement of internal and external light fittings;
- (2) Remedial Structural Steelworks above the Mosedale Suite, Headquarters.

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21/10 **Insurance Arrangements**

The Authority received details of the cost of renewal of its insurances to apply from 1st October, 2010, and the outcome of a tender exercise with regard to long term undertakings due to expire in 2010.

Members referred to previous discussions about the possibility of mutual insurance arrangements and whether this could achieve savings for the Authority. There were possibilities for collaboration on this issue, such as the work undertaken by the national procurement organisation FiReBuy, and approaches to other services. Officers would be looking at this matter further over the next 12 months.

Resolved that the recommendations set out in the report with regard to the Authority's insurance arrangements for the year commencing 1st October, 2010 be approved.

(Meeting ended at 12.37 pm)

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