

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority**

26 November, 2012 at 11.00 am
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: Councillors Aston, Auluck, Chambers, Clinton, Davis, Delaney, Douglas-Maul, Edwards, Eustace, Finnegan, Foster, Idrees, O'Neill, Quinnen, Sealey, Singh, Spence, Tranter, Ward, Walsh, Wright and Young.

Apologies: Councillors Singh Atwal, Davies, Hogarth, O'Reilly and Yardley; Mr Denny.

Observers: Mr Ager, Mr Bell, Mr Clothier and Mrs Tyler.

100/12 **Declaration of Interests**

Councillors Edwards and O'Neill declared non-disclosable pecuniary interests in Minute No 104/12 below (Monitoring of Finances).

101/12 **Chair's and Chief Fire Officer's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed Mr Bell, Mr Clothier and Mrs Tyler who were attending as observers at their first Authority meeting. He reminded members that the Authority had agreed to appoint these persons as independent persons in connection with standards matters.

The Chief Fire Officer reported that the Service was currently dealing with a serious fire in Langley at premises where alcohol was stored in tanks. 15 pumps were in attendance. High volume pumps had also been sent to Gloucestershire as flooding was anticipated.

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The Chief Fire Officer also reported that two teams from the service had been competing in a national breathing apparatus competition. The team from Sheldon Fire Station had won the competition. The Chief Fire Officer indicated that the team were a credit to the organisation and that their success was the result of years of training, knowledge and operational experience.

The Chair reminded members that the Brigade Carol Service would take place on Sunday, 9 December 2013 at 4 pm at St Martins, Digbeth, Birmingham. He encouraged all members to attend.

The Chair also paid tribute to David Walton, who was leaving the Service for the post of Assistant Chief Fire Officer with West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. Mr Walton had been born at the old Fire Service Headquarters and had entered the Service himself in 1985 at the age of 18. He had worked in various capacities over his 27 years with the Service and was now Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer. The Chair presented Mr Walton with a framed photograph of the old and new Headquarters buildings. Members thanked Mr Walton for his service and wished him success in his new post.

102/12 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September, 2012, be confirmed as a correct record.

103/12 **The Data Protection Act 1998**

The Clerk presented a report setting out key requirements of data protection legislation and guidance for the benefit of members, following a complaint made by an employee to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Members were reminded of the data protection principles as set out in the Data Protection Act 1998 and the definition of personal data and sensitive personal data. The report also set out the principles governing a decision on whether it was fair and lawful to disclose information and the principles governing disclosure of information to elected members.

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The Clerk asked members to note the obligations placed on them and the Authority in relation to data protection. She advised members to seek advice from herself or the Director Human Resources if they needed guidance on these obligations.

104/12 Monitoring of Finances

The Authority noted a report on the monitoring of finances to the end of October 2012.

105/12 Minutes of the Audit Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October, 2012, were received.

106/12 Minutes of the Executive Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 November, 2012, were received.

107/12 Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 November, 2012 were received.

108/12 Notes of the Policy Planning Forum

The notes of the meeting held on 5 November, 2012, were received.

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109/12 **Notes of the Joint Consultative Panel**

The notes of the meeting held on 13 September, 2012, were received.

(Meeting ended at 11.27 pm)

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