



***Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities - Monday, 11 April 2011***

***Statement of Decision***

**Present:**

Councillor Mrs J. Heathcoat

**Officers:**

D. Etheridge, Chief Fire Officer & Head of Community Safety;  
Nathan Travis, Assistant Chief Fire Officer; Matt Carlile,  
Programme & Special Projects Manager; Sarah Hayes, Assistant  
Solicitor (Agenda Item 5); Richard Webb, Acting Head of Trading  
Standards & Community Safety (Agenda Item 7); Julie Dean, Law  
& Governance

# Formal Collaboration Programme between Oxfordshire County Council Fire & Rescue Service, Royal Berkshire Fire Authority and Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

## Documentation considered:

Report Formal Collaboration Programme between Oxfordshire County Council Fire & Rescue Service, Royal Berkshire Fire Authority and Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

*A copy is attached to the signed copy of this decision.*

## Cabinet Member's Comments

The Cabinet Member considered a report by the Chief Fire Officer (CMDSSC4) requesting authorisation to commence a formal collaboration programme between Oxfordshire County Council Fire Authority, Royal Berkshire Fire Authority and Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority to improve operational and organisational resilience and realise efficiencies whilst maintaining existing governance structures.

## Decision

Having regard to the arguments and options set out in the documentation before me, the representations made to me and the further considerations set out above, I confirm my decisions on this matter as follows:

It was **AGREED** (amendments made by the Cabinet Member in bold italics):

- (a) authorise the Chief Fire Officer to commence a formal collaboration programme between Oxfordshire County Council Fire Authority, Royal Berkshire Fire Authority & Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority to improve operational and organisational resilience and realise efficiencies whilst maintaining existing governance structures;
- (b) request the Chief Fire Officer to provide regular updates ***to the Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities*** at appropriate times on project progress and delivery of efficiencies against the savings targets identified within the medium term financial plan;
- (c) ***the Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities to be the point of any future programme board arrangements which includes elected members from other authorities; and***
- (d) ***to request the Chief Fire Officer to inform the Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities when the primary legislation is to be amended.***

Signed .....  
Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities

Date .....

## **Request for Exemption from Contract Procedure Rules - Purchase of Software for Management of Fire Fighter Rotas**

### **Documentation considered:**

Report Request for Exemption from Contract Procedure Rules  
- Purchase of Software for Management of Fire Fighter  
Rotas

*A copy is attached to the signed copy of this decision.*

### **Cabinet Member's Comments**

The Cabinet Member considered a report by the Chief Fire Officer (CMDSSC5) which sought an exemption from Rule 13 of the Contract Procedure Rules, which requires that for contracts of more than £75,000 but less than the relevant EU Directive threshold in value, to submit tenders for the goods, services or works required by the Council.

Sarah Hayes advised the Cabinet Member that the item should be withdrawn at this juncture on the grounds it would give an opportunity for further market testing. Such action would not adversely affect the Service.

### **Decision**

Having regard to the arguments and options set out in the documentation before me, the representations made to me and the further considerations set out above, I confirm my decision on this matter as follows:

That, further to legal advice received from the County Solicitor & Monitoring Officer, to withdraw this item.

Signed .....  
Cabinet Member for

Date .....200

# Request for Exemption from Contract Procedure Rules - Personal Protective Equipment for Firefighters

**Documentation considered:**

Report Request for Exemption from Contract Procedure Rules - Personal Protective Equipment for Firefighters

*A copy is attached to the signed copy of this decision.*

**Cabinet Member’s Comments**

The Cabinet Member considered a report by the Chief Fire Officer (CMDSSC6) which sought authorisation to seek an exemption from Rule 13 of the Contract Procedure Rules in order to submit a tender for the supply of personal protective equipment for firefighters.

**Decision**

Having regard to the arguments and options set out in the documentation before me, the representations made to me and the further considerations set out above, I confirm my decisions on this matter as follows (Cabinet Member’s amendments in bold italics):

- (a) To approve this exemption from the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules in view of the emergency situation now brought about which is beyond the reasonable control of the Council; and
- (b) ***request the Chief Fire Officer to provide updates at the appropriate time on the results of the mini competition exercise.***

Signed .....  
Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities

Date .....

# Re-Authorisation for the Birmingham City Council Illegal Money Lending Team to Operate in Oxfordshire

**Documentation considered:**

Report Re-Authorisation for the Birmingham City Council  
Illegal Money Lending Team to Operate in Oxfordshire

*A copy is attached to the signed copy of this decision.*

**Cabinet Member’s Comments**

In November 2009 the Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities had agreed to delegate authority for enforcement of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 to Birmingham City Council. This delegation had enabled the Money Lending Team to operate in Oxfordshire. However, the original agreement with Birmingham City Council had expired on 31 March 2011.

The Cabinet Member considered a report by the Acting Head of Trading Standards and Community Safety (CMDSSC7) requesting authorisation to extend the agreement with Birmingham City Council on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council and approve minor alterations if required.

**Decision**

Having regard to the arguments and options set out in the documentation before me, the representations made to me and the further considerations set out above, I confirm my decisions on this matter as follows (Cabinet Member’s amendments in bold italics):

- (a) to agree to continue the delegation of the function of enforcement of Part III of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 in Oxfordshire by Birmingham City Council and to delegate the power of prosecution to Birmingham City Council for any matters associated with or discovered during an investigation by the illegal money lending team;
- (b) to agree that authority be delegated to the Acting Head of Trading Standards and Community Safety to extend the existing agreement with Birmingham City Council ***until 31 March 2013*** on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council and approve minor alterations if required; and
- (c) ***to ensure that annual reports/updates are given to the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee on the work undertaken by the Illegal Money Lending Team on a regular basis.***

Signed .....  
Cabinet Member for

Date .....2011