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| <p><b>Notes of the Policy Planning Forum</b></p> |
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**28<sup>th</sup> July, 2008, at 10.00 am**  
**at Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham**

**Present:**        **Members of the Authority**

Councillors Alden, Clinton, Douglas-Maul,  
Eustace, Gazey, Hinton, Howard, Idrees, Jones,  
Mulhall, O'Neill, Robinson, S Davis, Skinner,  
Spence, Stevenson, Sutton, Tagger, Tweddle  
and Ward.  
Messrs Ager, Bagley and Topliss.

**Officers:**        **West Midlands Fire Service**

Chief Fire Officer – F Sheehan;  
Deputy Chief Fire Officer – V Randaniya;  
Assistant Chief Officers – Alan Brandon and John  
Brown;  
Mike Griffiths.

**Clerk to the Authority**

S Phelps, G Wythes and S Hancock.

**Apologies:**        Councillors Chambers, G Davies, Ryder, Singh and  
Turner.

15/08    **Chief Fire Officer's Introduction**

The Chief Fire Officer welcomed Members to the meeting.

He indicated that the first phase of the move to the new Headquarters building was about to commence.

He also reported that arrangements were to be made for Members to visit the regional Fire Control building shortly, and that new Members would be invited to visit the Handsworth Community Fire Station as part of their induction training.

16/08    **Sedgley Fire Station**

The Chief Fire Officer reported that the Executive Committee was to be asked to authorise a consultation exercise regarding proposals to change the way fire cover was provided in the Sedgley area of Dudley and outlined the background to the proposed consultation. He provided fire risk management information in respect of the Sedgley locality and details of activity and the current working arrangements at Sedgley Fire Station.

Members' questions on the detail of the proposal were answered.

17/08    **Arson Task Force**

Members received a report on the progress and achievements of the Arson Task Force which was a joint initiative between the Fire Service and the Police that had been very effective in driving down the incidence of arson. The task force comprised two officers and worked through partnership with statutory agencies to identify potential risks and through education and prevention work with schools and businesses.

Funding for the initiative was due to cease in March 2009 and discussions were in hand on the future of the project.

(Meeting ended at 11.50 am)

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