

<p>Notes of the Policy Planning Forum</p>
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22nd May, 2006 at 10.00 a.m.
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: **Members of the Authority**

Councillors Birbeck, Bowen, S Davis, Douglas-Maul, Eustace, Jones, Hinton, Hogarth, Howard, Hussain, Idrees, Jackson, Lawrence, Mulhall, Rogers, Ross, Ryder, Singh, Stevenson, Tagger, Underhill and Ward;
Mr Topliss.

Officers: **West Midlands Fire Service**

Chief Fire Officer – F Sheehan;
Deputy Chief Officer – V. Randeniya;
Assistant Chief Officers – A Brandon, J Brown, R Hulland and M Park;
B Hay, M Griffiths and J McNaughton.

Clerk to the Authority

S Phelps, N Sharma, S Hancock and G Wythes.

Treasurer to the Authority

L Bateman.

Apologies: Councillors G Davies and Foster.

Observer: Councillor Gazey

10/06 **Performance against Indicators**

Members received a presentation on the outcomes against Performance Indicators for 2005/06. The majority of targets had been met, and explanations were provided where performance had fallen below targets.

It was agreed to provide detailed statistics to the next Authority meeting with regard to the number of uniformed and non-uniformed staff from ethnic minorities.

The Chief Fire Officer indicated that performance in relation to primary fires and the number of deaths from accidental fires remained at very low levels, and was a tribute to the professionalism of the Brigade's firefighters.

11/06 **Equality and Diversity – Core Values**

The Lead Member for Equality and Diversity presented proposed core values for the Authority and its employees that would provide a foundation for improving standards of service delivery and working relationships within the organisation.

The four key themes of the core values were:

- Service to the community
- People
- Diversity
- Improvement

Once agreed, these shared values would improve commitment and productivity, aid individual understanding, guide decision-making, align actions throughout the organisation, stimulate change, and lead to improved performance.

Consultation would now take place with staff, community organisations, and partners with a view to understanding and incorporating these core values into the organisation's policies. It was proposed to conduct an audit in March 2007 to measure the success of embedding these core values within the organisation.

12/06 **Buncefield Incident**

The Chief Fire Officer reported that the Brigade had received a certificate from the Borough of Decorum in Hertfordshire in recognition of the support given to the operation in connection with the Buncefield oil fire in December 2005.

(Meeting ended at 11.55 a.m.)

<p><i>Contact Officer: Georgina Wythes Democratic Services Unit Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council 0121 569 3791</i></p>
