

Notes of the Policy Planning Forum

6th December, 2004 at 9.30 a.m.
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: **Members of the Authority**

Councillors Afzal, Birbeck, Bowen, Davis, Haque, Hinton, Hogarth, Howard, Idress, Kazi, Mulhall, Pitt, Rogers, Ross, Ryder, Singh, Wallace and Ward.

Officers: **West Midlands Fire Service**

Chief Fire Officer – F Sheehan.
Deputy Chief Fire Officer – V Randeniya.
Assistant Chief Officers – A Brandon,
J Brown, R Hulland and D Smethurst.
M Griffiths.

Clerk to the Authority

N Summers and S Hopcroft.

Treasurer to the Authority

L Bateman.

Observer: Mr C Topliss.

Apologies: Councillors Foster and Matchet.

27/04 **Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)**

Members received a presentation outlining the aims of the CPA inspection and the necessary preparations required in order to manage the process effectively.

The key areas identified for the Authority were vision, governance and strong leadership.

A number of workshops and discussion fora with Members and officers would be held in early February to collect evidence for the inspection, which was due to take place in April 2005.

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28/04 **Budget 2005/2006**

The Treasurer gave a presentation on the projected 2005/2006 budget.

The current budget projection included a number of forecasted increases, which included the provisionally advised superannuation contribution increase of around 3% and an increase in fuel/gas prices.

Forecasted reductions included pay for bank holiday working, interest rate reductions and an increase in income as a result of the partnership with Warwickshire. Potential reductions were subject to consultation on the Integrated Risk Management Plan and subsequent changes to shift patterns.

It was reported that transitional funding of £1.6million, which had been received to implement the modernising agenda, would now have to be re-paid in 2006/2007.

The current projected precept increase for 2005/2006 was 5%. However, there were still a number of issues that could not be fully quantified at present, which included the Headquarters re-location project. A further update would be reported to the Forum in January 2005.

29/04 **Assimilation of Ranks to Roles**

Members received an presentation on the proposed new duty systems and shift patterns to support the 2005/06 Integrated Risk Management Plan and an update on the assimilation of ‘ranks’ to ‘roles’.

Consultation with staff and unions on the new duty systems and shift patterns was due to commence in January 2005, with an anticipated implementation date of September 2005.

There were currently 12 ‘ranks’ within the service, which would be assimilated into seven ‘roles’. Promotions to Sub-Officer ranks had been frozen from November 2003 pending guidance from the National Joint Council. Members would receive further updates as the process progressed.

(Meeting ended at 11.51 a.m.)

*Contact Officer: Stephnie Hopcroft
Democratic Services Unit
0121 569 3189*