

Notes of the Policy Planning Forum

17th May, 2010 at 10.00 am
At Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: **Members of the Authority**
Councillors Alden, Chambers, Eustace, G.Davies,
Gazey, Hinton, Idrees, Jones, Mulhall, O'Neill, Ryder,
S Davis, Singh, Spence, Stevenson, Tagger, Turner,
and Ward;
Mr Ager, Mr Denny and Mr Topliss.

Officers: **West Midlands Fire Service**
Chief Fire Officer – V Randeniya.
Deputy Chief Fire Officer - M Clark
A Brandon, J Brown, M Hamilton-Russell, M Griffiths,
P Mika and A Prosser.

Clerk to the Authority
S. Phelps, N. Sharma, G. Wythes, M. Kaur.

Treasurer to the Authority
S. Kellas

Apology: Councillor Andrew.

12/10 **Announcements**

The Chief Fire Officer reported that a number of Fire Service personnel, including himself, had participated in a multi agency team which had successfully ascended Snowdon on 21st April 2010. All funds raised were in aid of the Firefighters' Charity and Help for Heroes Charity.

He also informed Members that the West Midlands Fire Service had for the first time won the Royal Society for the Prevention Accidents Emergency Sector Services Award.

13/10 **Total Place Governance**

Jackie Mould from Birmingham City Council gave a presentation on the Total Place pilot scheme which had operated in Yardley over the

past six months. 'Total Place' was a whole area approach to provide better public services at less cost by joint working between public, private and voluntary sectors. The Total Place Pilot had concentrated on six themes: gangs; early intervention; learning disability; mental health; drugs and alcohol; and community demonstrator. The West Midlands Fire Service was one of the partner agencies contributing to the pilot scheme. Birmingham City Council was now reviewing and evaluating the pilot project with a view to embedding the principles of Total Place into mainstream service delivery across the local strategic partnership.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer gave a presentation on the implications of the Total Place initiative for the Authority and its future involvement in partnership working. He indicated that many of the principles of the Total Place initiative were already embedded in the West Midlands Fire Service. There was a high level of partnership working and flexibility at locality, district, regional, national and international level. Service delivery was designed around the citizen and targeted according to risk and vulnerability. The Authority already subscribed to shared services through Sandwell MBC, and governance arrangements and a shared budget spread across seven local authority districts.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer indicated that the Authority might wish to endorse the concept of 'Total Place' but further consideration would need to be given to the evidence base from the pilot studies in relation to future Fire Service involvement, set against its statutory responsibilities across the West Midlands, the integrated management process, the anticipated financial situation and its impact on resources, and the need to maintain a quality service. Further reports would be presented in due course on this matter.

14/10 Community Fire Safety Update (Road Casualty Reduction)

The Acting Director of Operations gave a presentation on the road casualty reduction work carried out by the Community Safety Team.

The Fire Service was working to national targets to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured in road accidents, and to more stringent local targets.

Research indicated that young drivers between the ages of 16 and 24 made up 26% of casualties and that two wheeler riders aged 16-24 made up 42% of casualties. Children were more at risk from road traffic accidents in deprived areas. The Road Casualty Reduction Team has therefore targeted these groups including general education in schools, promotional wraps on Fire Service vehicles and specialist work with youth

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offending teams. The reduction in accidents in 2009/10 was estimated to have saved £3.5m.

There would be challenges in the future as the result of the recession such as an increase in poor maintenance of cars and an increase in uninsured or disqualified drivers. Funding of the initiative might also be at risk. It was hoped however, to continue partnership working on road casualty reduction and to develop new delivery methods including a dedicated motorcycle team.

(Meeting ended at 11.50am)

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