

Notes of the Policy Planning Forum

22nd October, 2007 at 10.00 am
at Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: **Members of the Authority**

Councillors Alden, Ali Khan, Birbeck, S Davis, Douglas-Maul, Eustace, Gazey, Hinton, Howard, Hussain, Idrees, Jackson, Mulhall, Pitt, Singh, Spence, Stevenson, Tagger, Turner, Ward, and Wilkes; Messrs Bagley and Topliss.

Officers: **West Midlands Fire Service**

Chief Fire Officer – Frank Sheehan;
Assistant Chief Officers – Alan Brandon and Doug Tweddle;
David Johnson, John McNaughton and Allan Parsonage.

Clerk to the Authority

Neeraj Sharma, Sue Phelps and Georgina Wythes.

Treasurer to the Authority

Lynda Bateman.

Apologies: Councillors Bowen, Ryder and Wild; Mr Denny.

20/07 **Annual Service Plan 2008/09 – Public Consultation**

The Director of Corporate Planning and Support outlined the consultation process in respect of the Annual Service Plan 2008/09 and reported on responses received so far. A full report on responses to the consultation would be submitted to the Authority in February, 2008. Members asked for a report at that time on how many requests had been received for the consultation document in alternative formats.

Information was also requested on what local arrangements had been made in preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games and what support would be available from Government towards any additional costs incurred by the Authority. The Chief Fire Officer undertook to report back to the Policy Planning Forum mid-2008 when more information

was available.

21/07 **Headquarters Relocation**

The Project Manager reported on progress at the new Headquarters site in Vauxhall Road, Birmingham, and on the sale of the current Headquarters.

The sale of the current Headquarters building was now complete, and the Authority now occupied the premises under a lease arrangement.

Construction of the car park at the new site was well underway, with completion expected around February/March 2008. Tenders were currently being invited for various elements of the fit out work for the new Headquarters building.

The project was running on time for occupation by August 2008 for the Headquarters, and September 2008 for the Safeside building. The project was also running within budget.

Proposals for operating the Safeside facility through a Board of Trustees with a separate management structure were outlined.

Work was in hand to progress the lease of the railway arches at the rear of the site. The Chief Officer undertook to investigate the option of a 25-year lease with a 15-year break clause for the lease of the railway arches.

(Meeting ended at 11.55 am)

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