

**Notes of the Policy Planning Forum**

**23 July, 2012 at 10.30 am  
at Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham**

**Present: Members of the Authority**

Councillors Aston, Atwal, Chambers, Clinton, Davies, Davis, Delaney, Douglas-Maul, Edwards, Finnegan, Foster, Hogarth, Idrees, O'Neill, O'Reilly, Singh, Spence, Tranter, Walsh, Ward, Wright, Yardley and Young.

**Officers: West Midlands Fire Service**

Chief Fire Officer – V Randeniya.  
Assistant Chief Fire Officers P Hales and P Loach.  
M Griffiths and D Johnson.

**Clerk and Monitoring Officer**

S Hancock.

**Apologies:**Councillors Eustace and Sealey; Mr Ager.

16/12

**Stop, Make, Buy, Ally**

Members received a presentation on Stop, Make, Buy, Ally (SMBA), a new initiative as part of the Building upon Success (BuS) programme which focussed on service improvement, income generation and efficiencies.

The process prompted a series of questions against every day activity and came up with proposals on the way forward in terms of whether the Service could stop carrying out the activity (stop), retain it in house (make), outsource it (buy) or enter into a partnership (ally).

The process looked at the costs, benefits, legal and statutory requirements, strategic objectives, risk and value to communities related to the activity and considered the competencies required to carry it out.

## Policy Planning Forum – 23 July, 2012

An assessment had identified 162 individual activities to be assessed using the SMBA process and further reports would be submitted to members in due course on proposals for the future of those activities.

In addition to the savings already generated through the BuS programme, further savings of around £1.8m had been identified through SMBA.

Members were reminded that the Service was being forced to look at every aspect of its work in order to generate savings as a consequence of significant budget reductions and that it was not possible to do this without accepting that some risks would increase.

### 17/12 **Outcome of Operational Peer Assessment**

Further to Minute No. 22/12 of the former Audit and Performance Management Committee (11 June, 2012) members received a report on the outcome of the Operational Peer Assessment.

The assessment had specifically focussed on response, community risk management and protection and had considered core questions in relation to:-

- outcomes for citizens;
- effectiveness of leadership and governance;
- capacity for current requirements;
- future needs

Overall the outcome of the assessment was positive and a number of areas of notable good practice had been identified. A detailed report would be submitted to the Authority in September, 2012. Further reports would be submitted to members in due course on the implementation of recommendations and the monitoring and evaluation of improvements.

(Meeting ended at 12.04 pm)

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