

Notes of the Policy Planning Forum

24th October 2005 at 10.00 a.m.
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: **Members of the Authority**

Councillors Birbeck, Bowen, S Davis,
Foster, Jones, Hinton, Hogarth, Howard,
Hussain, Idrees, Jackson, Lawrence, Mulhall,
Ross, Ryder, Singh, Tagger, Wallace and Ward;
Mr Topliss.

Officers: **West Midlands Fire Service**

Deputy Chief Fire Officer – V Randeniya.
Assistant Chief Officers – A Brandon,
R Hulland and M Park.

Clerk to the Authority

N Summers and S Hancock.

Treasurer to the Authority

L Bateman.

Apologies: Councillors Davies, Douglas-Maul, Eustace, Matchet,
Pitt, Rogers and Underhill.
Chief Fire Officer – F Sheehan.

20/05 **Civil Disturbances**

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer briefed members on the plans that were in operation to manage the recent disturbances in the Lozells area of Birmingham.

21/05 **Industrial Relations Update**

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Human Resources) updated Members on the current dispute regarding consequential issues arising from the implementation of the new duties and shift patterns.

22/05 **Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Action Plan**

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Performance and Planning) and Councillor Lawrence (Lead Member for Performance and Planning) updated members on the CPA Action Plan, which was shortly to be presented to the Round Table Meeting, involving the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), the Government Office West Midlands (GOWM), Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI), Auditors and Members and Officers of the Authority.

The Authority had received good scores as a result of the CPA process, in particular for Capacity and Governance.

24 development issues had been identified which would now be included in departmental action plans and the new Borough and City plans. All plans were interlinked and accountable at each level within the Brigade, up to and included elected Members.

The Service Improvement Plan was due to be submitted to the Government Office West Midlands in late November 2005.

23/05 **Corporate Risk Management**

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Performance and Planning) updated Members following the 2005 review of the Corporate Risk Management Process and outlined nine further risks that had been identified.

24/05 **Equality and Diversity Update**

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Human Resources) and Councillor Bowen (Lead Member for Equality and Diversity) sought the Forum's views with regard to establishing a policy statement on membership of extreme organisations.

Members felt that any policy should not specifically mention particular organisations but should instead focus on behaviour and the promotion of community cohesion, and should make clear the types of behaviour that are not considered to be in the spirit of the Authority's Core Values.

(Meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.)

<p><i>Contact Officer: Stephnie Hancock Democratic Services Unit Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council</i></p>
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