

Notes of the Policy Planning Forum

5th October, 2007 at 9.30 am
at Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: **Members of the Authority**

Councillors Alden, Ali Khan, Delaney, Foster, Gazey, Howard, Idrees, Jackson, Mulhall, Spence, Stevenson, Turner, Ward, Wild and Wilkes; Mr Topliss.

Officers: **West Midlands Fire Service**

Chief Fire Officer – Frank Sheehan;
Assistant Chief Officers – Alan Brandon, John Brown, Martin Clark and Doug Tweddle;
Rory Campbell, Bob Deeks, Mike Griffiths and David Johnson.

Clerk to the Authority

Neeraj Sharma, Sue Phelps and Georgina Wythes.

Treasurer to the Authority

Lynda Bateman.

Apologies: Councillors Birbeck, G Davies, S Davis, Eustace, Hinton, Hussain, Ryder and Tagger.

18/07 **Update on current issues**

The Chief Fire Officer introduced Mr David Johnson, who had taken up the post of Director of Human Resources on 1st October, 2007.

The Chief Fire Officer also updated members on two major fires that had been attended by the Brigade; one recently at a school in Coventry and one last evening at St Barnabas Church in Erdington. Both fires had caused significant damage.

The Chief Fire Officer indicated that he had met with councillors from Coventry to discuss the school fire and to reinforce the benefits of fitting sprinkler systems in such public buildings.

Members stressed the importance of continuing to raise awareness

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with local education authorities in the West Midlands about the advantages of fitting sprinkler systems. Members also asked the Chief Fire Officer to ensure that officers advising on fire safety in public buildings and planning applications gave a strong recommendation that sprinkler systems should be installed in all public buildings.

19/07 Annual Service Plan

The Chief Fire Officer outlined the main elements of the draft Annual Service Plan, which was to be considered by the Executive Committee following this meeting, and answered Members' questions.

(Meeting ended at 10.39 am)

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