

Notes of the Policy Planning Forum

23 January, 2012 at 10.45 am
at Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: **Members of the Authority**
Councillors Alden, Chambers, Clinton, Davies, Davis,
Delaney, Docker, Douglas-Maul, Edwards, Eustace,
Finnegan, Foster, Griffiths, Hogarth, Idrees, O'Neill,
Ryder, Sandy, Singh, Spence, Stevenson, Tranter,
Turner and Walsh.
Messrs Ager, Denny and Topliss.

Officers: **West Midlands Fire Service**
Chief Fire Officer – V Randeniya.
M Griffiths and D Johnson.

Clerk and Monitoring Officer
N Sharma and S Hancock.

Treasurer
S Kellas.

Apology: Councillor Andrew.

5/12 **Budget and Precept 2012/2013 - Update**

Further to Note No. 29/11 (12 December, 2011) the Director of Finance and Procurement updated members on the Authority's budget position.

The Chair had met with the district leaders on 16 December, 2011 and outlined the Authority's position. The district leaders had encouraged the Authority to accept the government's financial incentive to freeze council tax (equivalent to a 3% increase). The Director of Finance and Procurement outlined the implications of doing this.

A detailed report on the two options available would be presented to the Authority on 13 February, 2012.

6/12 **Potential Redundancy Timescales and Considerations**

The Director of Human Resources outlined the work that had been undertaken in order to try to avoid the need for large scale compulsory redundancies. Due to its budget position however, it was possible that the Authority could be forced to consider making redundancies.

Members received details on the options that could be considered and the implications of each option, including timescales. The Chair stressed the importance of preparing for change but not making decisions until the full facts were known.

7/12 **Investors in People**

The Director of Human Resources reported that the Service was seeking to obtain accreditation under the Investors in People (IiP) standard.

The IiP standard was a recognised best practice tool for organisations to use in changing times. It supported change management in creating a supportive working environment and a culture of innovation which in turn lead to improved morale. The Service would be seeking to obtain the 'Standard' level initially.

The Lead Member for Human Resources would be chairing a working group to lead on the preparation process.

(Meeting ended at 12.25 pm)

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