

Notes of the Policy Planning Forum

2nd April 2007 at 10.00 a.m.
at Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: **Members of the Authority**

Councillors Alden, Bowen, S Davis, Foster, Gazey, Hinton, Hogarth, Howard, Hussain, Idrees, Jones, Pitt, Rogers, Ross, Singh, Spence, Stevenson, Tagger and Ward; Mr Topliss.

Officers: **West Midlands Fire Service**

Chief Fire Officer – F Sheehan;
Deputy Chief Fire Officer - V Randeniya;
Assistant Chief Officer – A Brandon;
Headquarters Relocation Manager – A Parsonage;
Equality and Diversity Manager – B Hay.

Clerk to the Authority

N Sharma, S Phelps and S Hancock.

Treasurer to the Authority

L Bateman.

Apologies: Councillors Birbeck, Jackson, Mulhall and Ryder.

6/07 **Introductions and Announcements**

The Authority was on track to move to an 'excellent' performing authority in terms of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment scores. It was also reported that the West Midlands Fire Service was the cheapest in the country in terms of value for money and performance when related to the precept for Band D properties.

Councillor Hogarth reported that a Solihull school destroyed by fire in 2006 would be rebuilt with sprinklers. The Chief Fire Officer informed Members that a risk assessment tool had been developed for use in the development of new schools, which advocated the use of sprinklers. The developers and local education authorities would have

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to put suitable cases forward for not using them.

Negotiations on the new pay deal had commenced.

The DCFO reported he had attended a counter terrorism event with the military and had given a presentation on the work and role of the Fire Service to several hundred high ranking personnel from the armed forces.

7/07 Headquarters Relocation

Members received an update on progress with the new headquarters project.

A report was to be submitted to the Executive Committee following this meeting.

8/07 Equality and Diversity Targets

Members received a presentation on the Authority's progress towards achieving targets for the recruitment and retention of minority groups.

It was proposed to establish a Task and Finish Group to examine data and address issues and barriers identified. A report was to be submitted to the Executive Committee following this meeting.

(Meeting ended at 11.55am)

<p><i>Contact Officer: Stephnie Hancock Democratic Services Unit Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council 0121 569 3791</i></p>
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