

BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

At a meeting of the Business Efficiency Board held on Wednesday, 7 November 2007 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Leadbetter (Chairman), Lloyd Jones, Findon, Jones, Norddahl, Osborne, Philbin and Worrall

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Cross, A. Lowe and Sly

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: I. Leivesley, C. Halpin, M. Murphy and D. Parr

Also in attendance: None

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

	<i>Action</i>
BEB17 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2007 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
BEB18 DELIVERING VALUE FOR MONEY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT: MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CSR07	
<p>The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy which gave details of a recent publication by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) following the Governments announcement on the Comprehensive Spending Review.</p>	
<p>The Council was required to report on its efficiency gains to the DCLG on a regular basis. For the past three years the Council has been required to reach an annual target of 2.5% efficiency savings on its 2004/5 revenue budget position. It was required through an Annual Efficiency Statement to report these formally to Government.</p>	
<p>The publication outlined changes to those arrangements, and these was detailed within the report along with highlighting that there was a need for the Council and the Board to consider the implications of this report in terms of its future strategy around the efficiency agenda.</p>	

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) the Efficiency Strategy document agreed by the Board last year be reviewed in the light of the new documents.

Strategic Director,
Corporate and
Policy

BEB19 MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES TOPIC GROUP

At the last meeting of the Board it had been agreed that a topic group be established to examine the principles applied to the development of the Authority's management structures in relation to its overall impact on the efficiency of the Council.

The Chief Executive briefed the Board on the approach that had and was currently being taken on such matters, in particular focusing on;

- the current climate of change within Local Government;
- the changes of the nature of posts due to the introduction of different working arrangements, such as partnership working;
- the changes to the balance between permanent and temporary posts;
- the need to continue to organise the workforce to match the Council's current priorities;
- updating the Workforce Development Strategy, which sets out the context, statistics and future vision;
- the streamlining of the senior management levels and the impact this had and would have in the future; and
- the major projects being undertaken by the Council and the need to have the right officers in place to deliver these.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the comments of the Chief Executive be considered in deciding the way forward for any topic work;

(2) a terms of reference and methodology for the group to follow be formulated; and

(3) the following members be appointed to the topic group;

Strategic Director,
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Councillors Leadbetter (Chair), Jones, Philbin, Cross and Sly.

BEB20 PROCUREMENT TOPIC GROUP

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy which sought agreement of the outline terms of reference for the Procurement Topic Group.

At its last meeting the Board asked that a topic group be formed to examine the Council's current procurement arrangements. The proposed terms of reference and methodology for the group to follow were outlined within the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the outline terms of reference and methodology be agreed;
- (2) a representative from the Procurement Group be invited to the first meeting of the topic group; and
- (3) the actions of the Chairman in appointing the following members to the topic group be endorsed;

Councillors Lloyd Jones (Chairperson), Findon, Lowe, Norddahl and Osborne.

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BEB21 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- (1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions

were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100(1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

BEB22 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT - QUARTER 2

The Board received a report which gave a summary of the work undertaken by Internal Audit for the period July to September 2007.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the findings from the internal audit reports issued in quarter 2 be noted;
- (2) the progress made in implementing previous internal audit recommendations be noted;
- (3) the progress made against the 2007/8 Internal Audit Plan be noted; and
- (4) that there are no outstanding issues identified through the work of Internal Audit that have implications for the Council's annual governance statement be noted.

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Corporate and
Policy

BEB23 AGENCY STAFF

The Board was provided with further details on the work that had been undertaken to develop a more robust approach to securing agency staff.

RESOLVED: That the Council make use of the framework agreed that exists between Liverpool City Council and Reed Managed Services.

Strategic Director,
Corporate and
Policy

Meeting ended at 8.18 p.m.