Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Board

Scrutiny Committee

Edinburgh, 4 April 2008

Present: -

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillors Bridgman (Convener) and Hawkins (*substituting for Councillor Lang*).

East Lothian Council – Councillor Currie.

Midlothian Council –Councillor Aitchison.

Scottish Borders Council – Councillor Turnbull.

West Lothian Council – Councillor Glass.

1 Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Scrutiny Committee of 18 January 2008 as a correct record.

2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Services Operational Assessment of Service Delivery

An overview was provided of the process for the operational assessment of service delivery. The self assessment process, which had been developed by the Chief Fire Officers' Association and the Fire and Rescue Service Advisory Unit, would be carried out during 2008.

Decision

1) To note the content of the letter from Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate for Scotland.

2) To note the participation of Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service in the assessment process.

(Reference – report by the Chief Fire Officer April 2008, submitted)

3 Personnel – Performance Audit – Quarter 3 2007-2008

Information was provided on the performance of the Service's Personnel function from October to December 2007.

There had been a significant reduction in the number of days lost to sickness compared to the same period in 2006-2007. An increase in absence rates of flexible duty and control staff was due to one or two instances of long-term absence within work groups with small numbers of staff.

Decision

To note the Personnel Performance Audit – Quarter 3 2007-2008.

(Reference – report by the Chief Fire Officer April 2008, submitted)

4 Training and Development – Performance Audit – Quarter 3 2007-2008

Information was provided on the performance of the Service's Training and Development function from October to December 2007.

The report focussed on strategic issues, initiatives and actions relating to three core areas – training development, training delivery and the Assessment Development Centres.

Decision

To note the Training and Development Performance Audit – Quarter 3 2007-2008.

(Reference – report by the Chief Fire Officer April 2008, submitted)

5 Operational Risk Assessment Strategy and Model – Review

Details were given of the Service's Operational Risk Assessment Strategy and Model which set a framework for managing its health and safety responsibilities.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – report by the Chief Fire Officer April 2008, submitted)

6 Carbon Footprinting

Following the publication of the Scottish Government's "Changing Our Ways: Scotland's Climate Change Programme", the Service was required to establish an organisational "carbon footprint", develop a methodology for ongoing monitoring and identify areas for change/improvement.

Wood Holmes, Consultants, had been awarded the contract at a cost of £11,325 to review the Service's preparedness.

Decision

1) To note the position of Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service in relation to the Climate Change Bill and Scottish Government targets for the reduction of carbon emissions.

2) To note the arrangements in progress to establish a carbon footprint for Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service.

3) That the Chief Fire Officer submit a further report once the consultant's report had been received and considered.

(Reference – report by the Chief Fire Officer April 2008, submitted)

7 Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007

The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 had come in to force on 8 April 2008.

The Act would hold organisations to account when a gross breach of a relevant duty resulted in a fatal consequence.

Decision

1) To note the introduction and implications of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007.

2) To continue the proactive ongoing positive commitment to health, safety and wellbeing arrangements to ensure that the risk of fatal accidents within Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service was kept to a level as low as reasonably practicable and that the subsequent potential corporate risk of indictment under the Act was mitigated.

3) To refer the report to the Board for information.

(Reference – report by the Chief Fire Officer April 2008, submitted)