Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Strategy Committee held in G-04 - Ground Floor, 169 Union Street, London SE1 0LL, on Friday 11 July 2014

Present:

Councillor Sarah Hayward (Chair)  Councillor Gareth Bacon AM  Councillor Mike Fisher
Councillor Susan Hall (Vice-Chairman)  Councillor Martin Whelton  Dr Fiona Twycross AM

1. **Apologies for Absence**

   Apologies were received from Councillor Jack Hopkins for whom Dr Fiona Twycross AM was substituting. Apologies for lateness were also received from Councillor Mike Fisher.

2. **Terms of Reference and Membership**

   **Resolved** – That the terms of reference and Membership of the Committee, as agreed by the Authority at its meeting on 26 June 2014, be noted.

3. **Disclosures of Interests and Dispensations**

   **Resolved** – That the details of membership of the GLA, other functional bodies and London Boroughs, as attached as an appendix to the Agenda be noted.

4. **Minutes**

   **Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 March 2014 be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

5. **Summary List of Actions - FEP 2259**

   **Resolved** – That the on-going, outstanding and completed actions arising from previous meetings as set out in the report (FEP 2259) be noted.
6. **End of Year Monitoring of Commitments in the London Safety Plan and Key Projects for 2013/14 (end March 2014) - FEP 2260**

Report (3.7.2014) by the Head of Strategy and Performance.

The Head of Strategy and Performance introduced the report after which a number of questions were asked by Members of the Committee, which officers answered.

Concern was expressed about the Control and Mobilising Services project, with some Members, based on borough experience, expressing a lack of confidence in Capita's ability to deliver the contractual requirements. Officers stressed that the aim was to make the project work and dialogue was ongoing but, in response to questions, officers confirmed that withdrawal from the contract was possible and officers were in discussion with other providers as a contingency option. Members asked that the Committee reconsider this issue following the revised October date for acceptance testing. It was noted that the project would be included in the next and subsequent quarterly reports and Members would therefore have the opportunity to discuss it as part of consideration of these reports.

The motion was made by Councillor Hayward that the report be noted.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Susan Hall, put and agreed.

**Resolved:** accordingly.

7. **Bids for DCLG Transformation Funding for 2015/16 - FEP 2261**

Report by Report (3.7.2014) by the Director of Finance and Contractual Services.

The Director of Finance and Contractual Services introduced the report.

After discussion the motion was made by Councillor Hayward: That

1. The bid for transformation funding set out in Appendix 1 be submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government for consideration;

2. Should the bid be successful, officers present a further report to this committee once a full business case and Memorandum of Understanding have been agreed between all parties; and

3. The full business case for the syndicated bid referred to in paragraphs 12-17 be presented to this Committee should that bid be successful.

The motion was made by Councillor Hayward that the report be noted.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Susan Hall, put and agreed.

**Resolved:** accordingly.
8. **Lakanal House Working Group - FEP 2262**

Report (3.7.2014) by the Deputy Commissioner and Director of Operational Resilience and Training.

The Director of Operational Resilience and Training introduced the report and then the Chair invited Valerie Shawcross AM as Chair of the Lakanal House Working Group to address the Committee. Ms Shawcross then summarised the work of the Working Group and concluded that she was satisfied that the Brigade had diligently pursued the issues which had arisen as a result of the Group’s activities.

The Committee then considered in detail the issues covered in the report and acknowledged that whilst this was the formal conclusion of the Working Party, many of the issues raised would be progressed further by the Strategy Committee. In particular, the Committee had undertaken to carry out a study to explore the operation of the Regulatory Reform Order in London and terms of reference for this study were attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

Members praised the materials produced by the Authority as part of the media campaign to engage residents and influence housing providers to communicate fire safety messages and asked officers to consider distributing this more widely, including to other fire brigades, which they undertook to do.

The motion was made by Councillor Hayward: That

1. The work of the Lakanal House Working Group be noted; and
2. This report be agreed as the formal conclusion of the work of the Lakanal House Working Group.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Susan Hall, put and agreed.

**Resolved:** accordingly

9. **Hoarding: a Progress Update and view from the Borough Commanders - FEP 2263**

Report (3.7.2014) by the Third Officer.

The Third Officer introduced the report and Members welcomed it, which they found interesting and informative.

The motion was made by Councillor Hayward: That

1. The efforts of Borough Commanders to engage proactively with local partners be endorsed, and Members assist in this process by raising the issue with Chief Executives and relevant cabinet Members where appropriate; and
2. Actions by officer to further develop the good practice identified in this report and investigate the potential for wider application across London be supported.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Susan Hall, put and agreed.

Resolved: accordingly

10. Alternative First Response to Automatic Fire Alarms - FEP 2264

Report (3.7.2014) by the Deputy Commissioner.

The Third Officer introduced the report and informed the Committee that the first stage of consultation with the FBU (i.e. industrial relations) had concluded without agreement with the FBU. As a result, the second stage (i.e. the Brigade Joint Committee for Health, Safety and Welfare - BJCHSW) has now commenced. The Third Officer reported that the FBU had requested that it be clarified to the Committee that the FBU believed health and safety issues should not be dealt with via national joint secretary conciliation, but under the separate health and safety conciliation process, and that it was not opposed to conciliation per se which it believed the report implied.

Some Members expressed disappointment that the FBU was objecting to this pilot project and asked what the options were. Officers responded that if agreement was not reached it was likely that the FBU would recommend that its members did not take part in the pilot. It was noted that it might be possible to continue by using fire safety staff. Members asked that they be given feedback on the negotiations with the FBU.

Some Members also questioned whether the use of the Brigade’s Mini Cooper vehicles, which were purchased for the Olympics, was the most suitable type of vehicle. Officers responded that the use the vehicles were put to in the Olympic park was similar to this. Nevertheless a full evaluation of the pilot, if progressed, would be undertaken and reported back to Members.

The motion was made by Councillor Hayward that the report be noted.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Susan Hall, put and agreed.

Resolved: accordingly.

11. Structural Fire Safety in New and Refurbished Buildings - FEP 2265

Report (3.7.2014) by the Deputy Commissioner.

The Deputy Commissioner introduced the report and answered questions from Members. In response to a specific question the Deputy Commissioner undertook to try to ascertain as to what extent local authorities monitor the effectiveness of building control.

After some discussion the motion was made by Councillor Hayward: - That
1. The work undertaken by officers to address concerns about the installation and protection of structural fire safety solutions in buildings be noted;

2. Officers undertake more work to refine the audit tool and to recommend its use as a self assessment tool to London local authorities and other bodies as appropriate be agreed and the proposal to add to the recommendation (to local authorities) that it would be desirable if Members were informed, first that the audit tool will be routinely used and secondly that they will be informed on a regular basis of issues arising that have potentially important implications for the local authority and for the general public, be noted;

3. In light of the Brigade’s evidence about failures in fire stopping/compartmentation, in parallel to dissemination of the audit tool, that all London local authorities be recommended that all contractors and sub-contractors appointed by them to undertake building projects should be able to demonstrate contemporary training and competence in the importance of fire stopping; and

4. Officers examine opportunities to take forward a wider focus on the issues raised in the report.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Susan Hall, put and agreed.

Resolved: accordingly.

12. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 11:50

Signed By: ................................................................. Chairman

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