

**MEETING OF MEMBERS OF
BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

TO CONSIDER DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

17 JUNE 2009 at 10 am

PRESENT

Councillors: C Atkins, M Ayub, A Brown, N Bullock, M Headley, J Mingay, J Saunders, P Snelling, J Street and S Timoney

Mr V Logan CFA Treasurer, CFO Smith, DCFO Hull, ACFO Sears, CFO Fuller, Mr Osborne and Mr Richardson

INTRODUCTION

Councillor Timoney, CFA Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting with particular reference to Councillor Ayub, who was attending his first meeting of the CFA.

APOLOGIES

Councillor Davies had tendered his apologies.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

No Member declared a personal or prejudicial interest.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

As agreed by the Combined Fire Authority on 27 March 2009, the Executive Members had agreed a draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) on 29 May 2009, which was now presented to Members for agreement.

Due to the implications of local government reorganisation and elections earlier in the month, this meeting replaced the usual review of the draft AGS by the Performance Achievement Scrutiny Group.

Following scrutiny and any necessary amendments, the AGS was to be incorporated into the 2008/09 Statement of Accounts, which was to be considered by the Combined Fire Authority on 30 June 2009.

Members fully considered the draft AGS making particular reference to audit and scrutiny by Members, engagement with the community, internal and external audit, Member training, Local Area Agreements and Comprehensive Performance Assessment/Comprehensive Area Assessment.

It was requested that the draft AGS be strengthened to explain that a specific Audit Committee was not required as this function was encompassed within the Performance Achievement Scrutiny Group, as approved by the District Auditor.

With regard to the internal audit assessment of the Authority, Members noted that they would have the opportunity to question the internal auditors at the meeting of the CFA on 30 June 2009 when they were due to present their 2008/09 Internal Audit Annual Report.

Following a considered debate, it was **agreed**:

That, subject to minor amendment, the submitted draft AGS be approved and presented for approval by the Combined Fire Authority on 30 June 2009.