

Risk Management Member Champion Cllr Booth

The risk management strategy group continues to assess the risk which the Authority has identified in its risk matrix. The group meets regularly and all existing and new risks are discussed to ensure that the assigned control measures are still appropriate. These measures are designed to reduce business risk to the Authority and therefore allow it to continue to be able to provide a first class service to all the communities of West Yorkshire.

Since my last summary both the risk management matrix and the business continuity plan have been updated.

The group is currently making arrangements to test its business continuity plan in the form of a Hydra exercise scheduled for Nov 2008. These exercises are designed to test our business continuity plan and lessons learnt will allow us to strengthen our planning arrangements.

I therefore look forward to continuing to support the Risk Management Strategy Group as their member champion.

Performance Management and Improvement Member Champion Cllr Khan

Performance management and improvement planning continues to see further development. The layout of the performance report has changed since my last update and the Authority Improvement plan now contains the recommendations of our most recent CPA and Charter Mark assessments. It is encouraging to see that both these assessments show that significant progress continues to be made in this critical area. The following quote from the Charter Mark assessor is clear evidence of this "This means the service is meeting, or in the areas of best practice exceeding, all requirements of the Charter Mark criteria, which is an indication of excellent service provided by West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service".

The performance management and improvement steering group also meet on a regular basis and the group is already looking at future requirements with regards to CAA reporting which will lead to the strengthening of our internal performance procedures and greater scrutiny by the Audit Committee.

I have also worked closely with the group in terms of the setting of the corporate Priorities and Objectives for 2008/11 at a strategic level. This has seen the development of a three yearly Corporate Plan which was recently approved by the Audit Committee and is being issued at today's Authority Committee.

The recent Ethical Governance review is also encouraging and this is likely to lead to changes to the roles of our Standards and Audit Committees.

I therefore look forward in continuing to support the group as their member champion.

Best Value Member Champion Cllr Harrand

The Best Value review of Information Technology has been completed and the changes recommended to the structure of the IT department are currently being pursued via the Personnel and Training Committee with a report scheduled for the July 2008 committee.

The Best Value review of the Operations department has been completed on time and the results are inline with the CPA Operational assessment, which gave the Authority a top score of 4. Recommendations highlighted in the report will be made in this financial year.

The Finance department Best Value as started and further work is scheduled for completion by the end of the financial year.

The Best Value review scheduled for this year will see the Training Development department being assessed as part of our scheduled programme of carrying out one major review each financial year. I look forward to working with the review team on this next review.

E Champion Report – Cllr Smith

The compliments and complaints procedures are accessible via the internet and this process is currently under review to see how it can be improved.

A project has been initiated to provide a new internet site which will provide users with easy access to a wide range of information and services.

Procurement cards have been introduced which enables internet buying where appropriate and has improved the service that supplies can offer.

Work is underway on an E-Recruitment system which will give potential applicants the ability to register interest in working for the Authority, view vacancies and apply on-line.