

25 July Board Minutes

SUMMARY

The Board agreed initial proposals to **simplify core finance and HR** processes. Users dislike the existing systems, which are complicated and result in significant effort being required to extract limited data. Finance Directorate have been asked work up some more far reaching proposals to address the complexity of the process and improve accountability for budget holders.

The Board welcomed the revised version of the **Strategic Workforce Plan**. They agreed it should primarily focus on skills required by staff rather than where they will be deployed. The Plan does not cover LE staff in detail; instead a more ambitious **LE Staff Strategy** will be developed later in the year.

The Board approved FCO's participation in the **Ocean Programme** to re-procure FTN and agreed ITD could now proceed to market. This should yield benefits for the FCO.

The Board welcomed the continuing progress in the **Future Firecrest** programme. Staff should now be preparing their data, ready for migration to F3G.

DG Finance presented his first annual report to the Board in his role as FCO sponsor for the **FCO Services Trading Fund**. It reviewed the performance of FCOS in 2007-08, and considered the outlook for 2008-09.