

FCO Board, 12 December 2008

SUMMARY

The Board focussed on measures to put our people at the heart of what we do. It discussed how to follow-up on the recent Cultural Audit and achieve the **culture** shift it wants for the FCO. It agreed that the Senior Leadership Forum should be involved in agreeing what qualities we'd value in the future, including fostering greater creativity and innovation in policy making. It also adopted in principle a new **Local Staff Strategy**, to be published in the New Year, emphasising the importance of LE staff being given the opportunity to visit the UK for training and short secondments, and agreed a plan for encouraging our best people to apply for **difficult-to-fill jobs**.

The Board endorsed the business case for the new **Corporate Services Programme**, which would make the FCO more streamlined and efficient, freeing up resources to bolster the frontline and positioning the organisation well for the future. It gave the go-ahead to create an integrated consular and political response capability under the **Global Out of Hours project**, and heard an update on **Future Firecrest**, on the eve of the first two pilot Posts going live.