

**DEFENCE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2008**

**SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS**

1. At the Defence Ministerial Committee meeting on 17 December 2008, the Committee discussed: the policy implications of the Global Financial Crisis; and considered how the Department was operating after the implementation of the 'Working Better' programme.
2. On the implications of the global financial crisis, the Committee held a wide ranging discussion highlighting some of the complex risks and issues that might develop and impact on Defence Policy in the future as a result of the on-going global economic situation. In doing so, the Committee asked the Strategy Director to produce more in-depth analysis work as required, to aid future policy decision making.
3. On the Department and how it operated, Ministers agreed that there had been some improvements in recent months. Staff were more prepared to seek clarification of requirements and offer feedback; and a more concise approach to the provision of information to Ministers had been taken. However there was still room for improvement in areas such as: the quantity of briefing for senior staff; the provision of early advice that explained differences of view within the Department the argument; and the acceptance of and pro-active preparation for the fact that more of what the Department produced would appear in the public domain. The Committee agreed to the recommendations that had been made to embed the initiative more deeply across the Department.

18 December 2008