



WNDC Board Report

Report by Chief Operating Officer

Paper Reference: 2010-07-09-01

Agenda Item: 9

2 November 2010

Subject: Operational Report

Advice: That the Board:

1. **Note** the report

1. Health & Safety

1.1 There are no accidents or near misses to report.

2. Audit & Risk Committee

2.1 The Committee met on 25 October. Topics on the agenda included health & safety, a draft anti-fraud policy and internal audit reports on risk management, governance and finance. The Chairman of the Committee will provide a verbal update at the Board meeting.

3. NEL/NNDC/WNDC Steering Group

3.1 Together with Northamptonshire Enterprise Ltd and North Northamptonshire Development Company, WNDC are looking to identify ways of working together that will save money and deliver better outcomes for the people of Northamptonshire.

3.2 An interim report was considered by the Joint Steering Group at their meeting on 7 October. The report suggested that through closer working there appears to be scope to deliver cost savings and improve delivery outcomes across the County. The next meeting of the Steering Group is on 4 November.

4. Planning Powers Transition Phase 1 Project Board

4.1 The Joint NBC/WNDC Project Board to manage the first phase transition of planning powers (non-strategic) to our local authority partners met on 26 October. Subject to Parliamentary approval, the Project remains on schedule for the transfer to take place on 6 April 2011.

5. Sponsor Minister Visit

5.1 On 28 September, our sponsor Minister Andrew Stunell MP visited Northampton. As part of his visit he met with the Chairman and the Chief Executive at Castle Station to confirm that supporting the regeneration of Northampton Town Centre is the Corporation's priority for action over the remainder of its life. This translates into

helping to deliver five projects: Grosvenor/Greyfriars, Avon Nunn Mills, Waterside, St Johns/Angel Street and Castle Station.

5.2 The Minister also indicated that, subject to Parliamentary approval he would be reducing the number of Board members to nine, in order to increase local democratic accountability by creating a majority of local authority nominees. He also announced his intention to consult on the second phase transition of planning powers, which would transfer all remaining back to the local authorities.

6. Spending Review 2010

6.1 On 20 October the Chancellor announced the result of the Spending Review for 2010. There were significant reductions in resources for our sponsor Department, Communities and Local Government (CLG). These are summarised below:

Departmental Settlement					
	£ billion				
	2010/11 (baseline)	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Communities					
Revenue	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.2
Capital	6.8	3.3	2.3	1.8	2.0
Communities (Sub-Total)	9.0	5.3	4.0	3.4	3.4
Local Government					
Revenue	28.5	26.1	24.4	24.2	22.9
Capital	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Local Government (Sub-Total)	28.5	26.1	24.4	24.2	22.9
Total	37.5	31.4	28.4	27.6	26.3

6.2 CLG are now undertaking an internal 'divvy-up' process. This will confirm the level of revenue and capital funding available during the period 2011/12 to 2014/15 for WNDC to deliver the priorities set by the Minister.

7. Appendices

7.1 None.