



# WNDC Board Report

## Report by Chief Operating Officer

Paper Reference: 2011-03-09-01

Agenda Item: 9

17 May 2011

**Subject:** Operational Report

**Advice:** That the Board:

1. **Endorse** the West Northamptonshire Local Investment Plan.
2. **Approve** the appointment of a new member of the Audit & Risk Committee.
3. **Approve** the appointment of the Chair of the Remuneration Committee
4. **Approve** the appointment of a new member of the Audit & Risk Committee
5. **Approve** the appointment of a WNDC representative to sit on the Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership Board.

## 1. Health & Safety

1.1 There are no accidents or near misses to report.

## 2. West Northamptonshire Local Investment Plan

2.1 WNDC has been working with the local authorities and the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) to create an overarching Local Investment Plan (LIP) for West Northamptonshire. The latest version is attached at Appendix A.

2.2 The LIP is intended to guide existing public sector investment in infrastructure across Northampton, Daventry and South Northamptonshire, and act as a mechanism for attracting further public and private investment. As such, the LIP will be a living document which is continually updated, refined and refreshed. The LIP is consistent with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, originally developed by WNDC and now being used by the Joint Planning Unit to underpin the emerging Joint Core Strategy, and the Corporation's project priorities as set out in Andrew Stunell's letter of 27 September 2010.

2.3 Local authorities are in the process of adopting the LIP.

2.4 **Board members are invited to endorse the LIP and note that officers will work with local authorities and HCA to keep the Plan up to date.**

## 3. Board Matters

3.1 Following an open competition, Deidre Newham has been appointed to WNDC's Board. Deidre brings with her a wealth of experience which will help the Corporation achieve its objectives. Nick Thompson and Mary Burrows have completed their terms of office. Their departure leaves vacancies on both the Audit & Risk Committee and the Remuneration Committee. The Remuneration Committee also requires a new Chair.

3.2 **Approval is sought to appoint new members of the Audit & Risk and Remuneration Committees, and to nominate a Chair for the Remuneration Committee.**

3.3 Following the restructuring of Northamptonshire Enterprise Ltd (NEL) into Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership (NEP), WNDC has been invited to nominate

a NEP Board Member. This could be at member or officer level. John Markham previously sat on the NEL Board as WNDC's representative.

**3.4 Approval is sought for a WNDC representative to sit on the NEP Board.**

**4. Transparency / Freedom of Information requests**

4.1 All WNDC spend over £500 is now routinely placed on our website.

4.2 There have been no Freedom of Information requests since the last Board meeting.

**5. Complaints, compliments and comments**

5.1 Feedback from members of the public, whether in the form of complaints, compliments or comments, is a key mechanism for driving continuous improvement within the Corporation, as it provides an external view on the effectiveness of our procedures and how well they are being implemented. Further details on our policy can be found at <http://www.wndc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/Making-complaints-comments-compliments.pdf>

5.2 There are currently three open complaints. The first, on the South Meadow Road planning application, has been through WNDC's procedures without being resolved. It is now with the Local Government Ombudsman to review. The remaining two relate to the Belle Baulk planning application and are currently being dealt with at Stage 2 of the complaints procedure.

**6. Appendices**

Appendix A: West Northamptonshire Local Investment Plan