



WNDC Board Report

Report by Chief Operating Officer

Paper Reference: 2011-05-08-01

Agenda Item: 8

20 September 2011

Subject: Operational Report

Advice: That the Board:

1. **Approve** the appointments to the Planning, Remuneration and Audit & Risk Committees.
2. **Approve** the Board and Committee meeting dates as set out in Appendices B and C.

1. Health & Safety

1.1 No issues were reported during June.

2. Board Appointments

2.1 Councillor Tim Hadland has been appointed to the Board as one of the two nominees of Northampton Borough Council. Councillor Mary Clarke has been appointed as the nominee of South Northamptonshire Council. Councillor Richard Church has been reappointed to the Board as one of the two nominees of Northamptonshire County Council.

3. Planning Committee membership

3.1 Following the changes in Board membership, the number of Board members trained to sit on planning committees has reduced by two. Given the likelihood of WNDC's planning powers transferring by 1 April 2012, and the cost of delivering planning committee training, the new Board members will not be trained to sit on WNDC planning committees. The existing Board members who are members of the planning committee are asked to sit on each planning committee until April 2012.

3.2 It is proposed that the following members are appointed to the planning committees below:

3.2.1 NAPC

- Deirdre Newham

3.2.2 DAPC

- Cllr. Richard Church (to be appointed as Chair)
- Deirdre Newham

3.2.3 TAPC

- John Weir (to be appointed as Chair)
- Deirdre Newham
- Cllr. Chris Millar

3.3 The full committee membership list is attached at **Appendix A**

3.4 **The Board is asked to APPROVE the above appointments.**

4. Remuneration / Audit & Risk Committee membership

4.1 There is one vacancy on the Remuneration Committee and one vacancy on the Audit and Risk Committee.

4.2 It is proposed that these vacancies are filled by Cllr. Jim Harker and Cllr. Tim Hadland respectively.

4.3 **The Board is asked to APPROVE the above appointments**

5. Transparency / Freedom of Information requests

5.1 We continue to publish spend over £500 on our website and on www.data.gov.uk. We now also publish a description against each line of spend along with suppliers' postcodes. Senior staff pay and a staff structure as of 30th June 2011 have also been published. A further requirement by central government is to report on website usage and quality. A survey is currently available on our website for users to complete.

5.2 We have had two Freedom of Information requests during July and August. The first request was for information about a Section 106 agreement for a planning application in Towcester. The second request was in relation to the amount of money WNDC has spent on purchasing books in the past 5 years.

6. Complaints, compliments and comments

6.1 As reported at the July 2011 Board meeting, a complaint regarding the South Meadow Road application had been referred to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO). The investigation is now complete and the LGO has concluded that there was no evidence of maladministration by WNDC. This complaint is now closed.

6.2 One complainant against the Belle Baulk application indicated they would refer their complaint to the LGO. We received a report from the LGO on 19 August 2011 stating they had received a complaint against WNDC, but have decided not to investigate the complaint as there was no evidence of maladministration. This complaint is now closed.

6.3 There are no further complaints to report.

7. Board and Committee dates 2012

7.1 The calendar of meetings is attached at Appendices B and C.

7.2 CLG's/NAO's audit timetable is yet to be confirmed. As a result, the Audit and Risk Committee dates proposed for 2012 are to be confirmed.

7.3 Planning Committees have been scheduled throughout January to March 2012. This is under the assumption that planning powers will be transferred on 1 April 2012 and the committees are no longer required beyond March 2012.

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix A - Board and Committee membership

8.2 Appendix B – Board and Committee meeting dates overview

8.3 Appendix C – Board and Committee meeting dates