



# WNDC Board Report

## Report by Chief Operating Officer

Paper Reference: 2011-06-08-01

Agenda Item: 8

15 November 2011

**Subject:** Operational Report

**Advice:** That the Board:

1. **Endorse** the report

## **1. Health & Safety**

1.1 There have been no incidents since the last Board meeting.

## **2. Departmental contacts**

2.1 Following Henry Cleary's retirement, WNDC's main senior contact at the Department is Dan Greaves. Dan is Deputy Director responsible for Housing Markets & Supply.

2.2 The Director-General responsible for WNDC, Richard McCarthy, is leaving the Department in November to join Capita Symons. His temporary replacement is Andrew Campbell. Peter Mawson met with Andrew on 3 November.

## **3. Board Membership**

3.1 In September 2010, Andrew Stunell MP announced the Government's intention to reduce the number of WNDC's Board Members from 13 to 9. This has already been achieved in practical terms during the last round of Board appointments. Parliament formally approved this reduction on 9 November, following debates in both the House of Commons and House of Lords. During the debates, Ministers confirmed that WNDC will continue to focus on progressing the delivery of five Northampton town centre projects (Avon Nunn Mills, Castle Station, Grosvenor Greyfriars, Waterside and St. Johns / Project Angel) through to the end of its life in March 2014. Ministers also confirmed that from April 2014, the Corporation will transition into a local authority led delivery vehicle to support the Councils complete the delivery process for these five projects.

## **4. Planning Committee Membership**

4.1 As many members will know, sadly Cllr. Diana Dallyn passed away in October 2011.

4.2 Cllr. Dallyn had been a member of the Towcester Area Planning Committee since November 2007 and helped determine applications such as Belle Baulk and Moat Lane. Her contributions were greatly received, and we all appreciate the time and dedication Diana gave to WNDC's planning committee.

## 5. Transparency / Freedom of Information requests

- 5.1 We continue to publish spend over £500 on our website and on [www.data.gov.uk](http://www.data.gov.uk). Updated Senior staff pay and a staff structure as of 30th<sup>th</sup> September 2011 will be published by the end of the year,
- 5.2 We have had one Subject Access Request from an individual who wanted to all information that WNDC holds about them, this included searching all email archives since the Corporation began. We also had one Freedom of Information request enquiring about spend on IT infrastructure.

## 6. Complaints, compliments and comments

- 6.1 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>
- 6.2 Since the last report to the Board in September 2011, one complaint has been received. It relates to the Daventry Planning Committee held on 11 October 2011 and the committee processes. This is currently being managed at stage 1 of the complaints process.

## 7. Appendices

- 7.1 None