

Context of and comment on items	Decision
<p><b>Item 4a Governance Reforms</b></p> <p>The purpose of the paper was to provide details of proposals by the Department of Health on how the GDC should reform its governance. It proposed the establishment of a Task and Finish Group (T&amp;FG) to consider all the implications arising.</p> <p>The paper also set out details on a new consultation by the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) on its role in advising the Government on appointments to councils of regulators in the future.</p>	<p>The Council agreed that a T&amp;FG, to be chaired by the Council Chair, should be established to consider the Department of Health's proposed governance changes.</p> <p>The Council agreed that the T&amp;FG should consider size and structure, of the Council and how best to meet the GDC's statutory purpose.</p>
<p><b>Item 5 Fitness to Practise – Legislative Changes</b></p> <p>The purpose of the paper was to present a revised list of Fitness to Practise proposals for change and to report on feedback gathered from key stakeholders on these proposals.</p>	<p>The Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. noted the feedback received from stakeholders;</li> <li>b. approved the proposals for legislative change; and</li> <li>c. agreed that the Executive, working with the Department of Health, should take the necessary preparatory steps for a Section 60 Order to effect the changes</li> </ol>
<p><b>Item 6 Ethical Advertising Guidance</b></p> <p>The purpose of the paper was to propose new guidance on ethical advertising.</p> <p>The Council recognised that it was important that further guidance was issued because the number of complaints related to ethical advertising was 8% in 2010 and there was evidence from patient focus groups that misleading advertising could have a significant, adverse impact on the trust placed on dental professionals.</p>	<p>The Council considered and approved the guidance on ethical advertising as amended.</p>

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<p><b>Item 7 Consultation of the Scope of Practice guidance</b></p> <p>The purpose of the paper was to propose a revision of the Scope of Practice guidance, for consultation.</p> <p>The objectives of the Scope of Practice (SoP) Working Group were to ensure that the SoP guidance was relevant, focused on public interest/patient safety, was accurate in its description of roles and responsibilities and up to date. The Group had reviewed the guidance including its structure and consulted with stakeholders</p>	<p>The Council thanked the Scope of Practice Working Group for its work and agreed that the review of Scope of Practice should now be referred to the Policy Advisory Committee to ensure that issues arising from the Standards Review and the potential of direct access (for some dental care professionals) were factored in.</p>
<p><b>Item 8 Proposed Investment Strategy and Principles</b></p> <p>The purpose of the paper was to propose an investment strategy and investment principles appropriate to the GDC.</p> <p>The new investment strategy would adopt a low to medium risk profile aimed at achieving returns broadly in line with inflation. This would involve reducing the proportion of investments held in equities (in line with the Council's direction in September).</p>	<p>The Council approved the investment strategy as detailed in the paper and the Investment Principles.</p>
<p><b>Item 9 Reserves Policy Review</b></p> <p>The purpose of the paper was to propose a revision to the GDC's reserves policy.</p> <p>The new reserves policy would express the reserves as a range of four to six months of operating expenditure, rather than as an amount (as at present). The new policy also proposed that reserves be defined as the general reserve only and should not include any pension reserve or unrealised gains on investment reserves.</p>	<p>The Council approved the reserves policy, as amended.</p>

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<p><b>Item 10 Financial Report for Quarter 3, 2011</b> The purpose of the paper was paper to report on the GDC's financial performance from January to September 2011.</p>	<p>The Council noted that the GDC's business was being managed within the budget set for 2011 and a surplus of £1.9m was forecast for the year.</p>
<p><b>Item 11 Performance Report for Quarter 3, 2011</b> The purpose of the paper was to report on a range of performance indicators related to the GDC's statutory functions and general operations.</p>	<p>The Council noted the report.</p>
<p><b>Item 12 New Governance Arrangements – Quality Assurance</b></p> <p>The purpose of the paper was to seek the approval of a revised procedure for managing the quality assurance of education, including the associated rules.</p> <p>The paper presented the rule changes necessary to give effect to the governance changes agreed by the Council in September, namely that the quality assurance of dental education should be delegated to the Chief Executive and Register.</p> <p>Under the new arrangements the Council would retain oversight of the quality assurance of dental education through regular reports on inspections undertaken and courses deemed sufficient. It would also receive an annual report on the quality assurance of dental education. The Chief Executive would maintain a list of experts and draw on their expertise to assist in decision-making where the need arose. The Council would be required to ratify decisions relating to the withdrawal of provisional approval or a decision on insufficiency. It would also be responsible for making referrals to the Privy Council in cases where a course is deemed insufficient.</p>	<p>The Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. noted the new procedure for the quality assurance of education; and</li> <li>b. made the General Dental Council (Delegation of Functions) Rules 2011</li> </ol>

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<p><b>Item 13 Policy Advisory Committee Report to the December 2011 Council and the Annual Programme of Business for 2012</b></p> <p>The paper reported on the key items discussed and decisions taken by the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) at its meeting on 31 October 2011 and set out the Committee's annual work plan for 2012.</p>	<p>The Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. noted the December Council report from the Policy Advisory Committee;</li> <li>b. noted the Principles of Policy Making and the Consolidated Policy development flowchart;</li> <li>c. approved the creation of the Direct Access Task and Finish Group; and</li> <li>d. approved the annual work programme for 2012; and</li> <li>e. agreed that a prioritised list of objectives for the PAC in 2012 should be presented at the next Council meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item 14 December 2011 Financial and Business Planning Advisory Committee Report and Annual Work Programme 2012</b></p> <p>The paper reported on the key items considered by the Financial and Business Planning Advisory Committee (F&amp;BPAC) at its meeting on 15 November 2011 and sought the approval of the Committee's annual work programme for 2012.</p>	<p>The Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. noted the report of the F&amp;BPAC from its meeting held on 15 November 2011 and the recommendations made by the Committee (which were contained within separate papers on the December Council agenda);</li> <li>b. approved the annual work programme and Committee objectives for 2012; and</li> <li>c. approved the Financial Policy and Procedures 2011</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item 15 December 2011 Audit Committee Report and Annual Work Programme for 2012</b></p> <p>The paper reported on the key items considered by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 23 November 2011 and sought the approval of the Committee's annual work programme for 2012.</p>	<p>The Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. noted the report of the Audit Committee from its meeting held on 23 November 2011; and</li> <li>b. approved the Audit Committee's annual work programme and objectives for 2012</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Item 16 December 2011 Remuneration Committee Report and Annual Work Programme for 2012</b> The paper reported on the key items considered by the Remuneration Committee at its meetings on 20 October and 17 November 2011 and sought the approval of the Committee's annual work programme for 2012.</p>	<p>The Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. noted the report of the Remuneration Committee from its meetings held in October and November; and</li> <li>b. approved the annual work programme and objectives for 2012</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item 17 Stakeholder Engagement</b> The paper presented a report on stakeholder engagement activity since the last Council meeting</p>	<p>The Council noted the report</p>