

Report to the Council from the Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) meeting of 16 April 2019

Purpose of paper	To report on the key items considered by the ARC meeting on 16 April 2019
Action	For noting
Corporate Strategy	<u>Objective 1</u> : To improve our performance across all our functions so that we are highly effective as a regulator.
Business Plan	N/A
Decision Trail	In accordance with the General Dental Council Standing Orders for the Non-statutory Committees of Council, the ARC will report to the next Council meeting following its meeting.
Next stage	N/A.
Recommendations	The Council is asked to note the report of the ARC meeting on 16 April 2019
Authorship of paper and further information	Polly Button, Governance Manager pbutton@gdc-uk.org 020 7167 6331
Appendices	None

1. Executive summary

- 1.1. In accordance with the GDC's Standing Orders for the Non-statutory Committees of Council, ARC (the Committee) is required to report to the Council meeting following each meeting.

This paper reports on the key items considered by the Committee at its meeting on 16 April 2019.

Items discussed at the ARC meeting on 16 April 2019

2. Chief Executive's report

- 2.1. The Chief Executive delivered an oral update which identified key risks and opportunities for the organisation.
- 2.2. The primary focus was the finalisation of supporting analysis for the Corporate Strategy which would include narrative around the appropriate reserve levels.
- 2.3. On the EU Exit, the position regarding dental professionals under an exit from Europe with a deal, or without a deal, was now significantly clearer. This would in turn mitigate some of the risk, however the organisation would keep on track and continue to plan as effectively as possible.

3. Annual Report and Accounts 2018

- 3.1. The Chief Executive and Registrar presented the accounts. The Committee discussed the draft document and noted that it felt improved and more reader friendly. The Committee added the statutory obligations were clearly set out and the format worked well.

4. haysmacintyre

- 4.1. Draft audit findings report and draft letter of representation
- 4.2. haysmacintyre introduced the report and noted the audit ran smoothly with no issues or omissions. Only a small number of minor amendments remained outstanding and these would be actioned shortly after the meeting.
- 4.3. haysmacintyre added the transition between the figures from the previous Head of Finance and Procurement to the current role was seamless. In terms of the Estates move, haysmacintyre were pleased that the key processes had migrated over successfully and thanked the GDC staff for their work.
- 4.4. The haysmacintyre draft audit findings report and the draft letter of representation were recommended to Council.

5. National Audit Office (NAO)

- 5.1. Audit completion report, draft letter of representation, draft audit certificate
- 5.2. The NAO presented report and noted their aim was to rely haysmacintyre findings. NAO also assured the Committee there was nothing to indicate any problems and subject to minor amendments, the team were happy with figures.
- 5.3. The NAO audit findings report, the draft audit certificate and the draft letter of representation were recommended to Council.
- 5.4. Final remarks
- 5.5. The Chair on behalf of the Committee thanked the team and confirmed the new audit approach had worked extremely well. The audit was clean, of high quality, and the Committees comments were fully taken on board. Given the level of organisational change, it was noted that the track record of clean audits was something for the organisation to be proud of. For next year, the Chair added it was important to maintain this level in conjunction with dual site working in Birmingham.

- 5.6. The Committee discussed the 2018 ARA and were happy to approve the draft based on the comments and suggested changes.
- 5.7. It was agreed that the final version of the 2018 Annual Report and Accounts would be submitted to the ARC Chair and subsequently recommended to the Council for approval.

6. Risk Management Section

6.1. Strategic Risk Register (SRR)

- 6.2. The Head of Risk Management and Internal Audit delivered the SRR update for March 2019.
- 6.3. Following the recent Council risk appetite workshop, a revised risk appetite matrix had been produced which was currently under further consideration with SLT, prior to an SLT workshop in June 2019.
- 6.4. The Committee discussed the risks, and for their periodic deep dive requested it to be Shifting the Balance at the next meeting.
- 6.5. The Committee approved the SRR.
- 6.6. **Internal Audit recommendation implementation update**
- 6.7. The Committee received the internal audit recommendation tracker and were happy that the number of recommendations implemented had increased.

7. Update on Annual Whistleblowing reporting

- 7.1. The Committee received a paper and confirmed the timescale of production covering the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.
- 7.2. A draft of the annual whistleblowing report covering both internal and external whistleblowing would be presented to SLT on 4 June 2019. The report would include the information on Prescribed Persons whistleblowing which would be published in September 2019. The Head of Governance confirmed work that was currently underway with the GMC in preparation for this joint report.
- 7.3. The full GDC whistleblowing annual report (covering internal and external whistleblowing) would be presented formally to ARC on 19 June 2019.
- 7.4. The Chair requested to include a reminder for staff (for internal whistleblowing) that they were able to report any instances to the ARC chair.
- 7.5. The Committee noted the update.

8. Items for noting

- 8.1. The Committee **noted** the 2018 Annual Health and Safety Report and Insurance Summary for 2019.