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## 6a

*To consider*

### **Membership of Committees, Boards, and Reference Groups**

#### **Issue**

1. Which Council members will serve on each of the Committees, Boards, Reference Groups, and two other groups in the proposed governance model, subject to Council's confirmation that it is content with the model proposed.

#### **Recommendations**

2.

- a. To endorse the proposed governance model (paragraphs 4-6 and Annex A).
- b. To agree the proposed membership of the Committees, Boards, Reference Groups, and other groups (paragraphs 7-14 and Annex B – to follow).

#### **Further information**

3. If you require further information about this paper, please contact us by email: [gmc@gmc-uk.org](mailto:gmc@gmc-uk.org) or tel. 0161 923 6602

## Background

4. On 19 December 2008, we sent members a pack containing a description of the proposed 'governance model' of Committees, Boards, Reference Groups, and three other bodies which would support the Council; annexes describing the model in more detail and setting out the purpose of each component; and a *pro forma* for members to let us know their preferences for bodies to serve on.

5. As noted in that pack, members had indicated a willingness to proceed on the basis of the proposed model, which was commended by the previous Council and based on previous arrangements subject to some refinements and necessary changes. Members had also seen merit in beginning the process of populating the components of the model sooner rather than later.

6. The description of the governance model proposed is re-circulated as Annex A. Please note that we will be discussing with PMETB the best arrangements for providing oversight and assurance to both governing bodies with regard to delivery of the practical elements of merger. Pending final conclusions on these discussions, we have removed the Joint Oversight Group from the Annex and from the process of allocation described in the remainder of this paper.

**Recommendation:** To endorse the proposed governance model.

## Discussion

### *Process*

7. We received completed *pro formas* from all members, and carried out an initial exercise to accommodate members, as far as possible, in line with their stated first or second preferences (where some members indicated multiple first preferences, it was not possible to accommodate all of them). Where that process left particular bodies significantly over or under-subscribed, we suggested solutions which accommodated, as far as possible, expressed preferences below first and second.

8. We are proposing some flexibility over the indicative membership ceilings in the original pack, increasing the numbers on the Audit and Risk and Remuneration Committees to four, on the Resources Committee to eight, and on the Education and Training, Fitness to Practise, Registration, and Standards and Ethics Reference Groups to six. This has helped to ensure a balanced composition of these bodies as well as giving all members the opportunity to contribute significantly to more than one important area of our work.

9. Discussions are currently being held with members, with a view to confirming that they are now content with the allocation proposed. This will be set out in Annex B which will be tabled before Council meets on 27 January 2009.

## Next Steps

10. Annex B will indicate the purpose of each body and who will take the executive lead for each. It will also contain provisional meeting dates for Committees and Boards. These can be revised in the light of any existing commitments on the part of members. For each of the Reference Groups, we will be in touch with the members to agree a mutually convenient date for an initial meeting at which the Group's future ways of working will be agreed.

11. We propose that the Committees and Boards should elect their Chairs, and Reference Groups their Conveners, in advance of their first meetings, by postal ballot (as an *ex officio* member the Chair of Council will be eligible to vote in this ballot, except for the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee of which he is not a member). The seminar on 26 January 2009 and the meeting on 27 January 2009 will give an opportunity for members of each of the bodies to meet one another and discuss whether they would be interested in chairing or convening. The Chair of Council and the Chief Executive will be available to assist in these discussions as required.

12. For each body, we will propose terms of reference at its first meeting, amplifying the purpose statements in Annex B, and providing a focus for its early work, subject to confirmation or review after six months.

13. When the new Chair of Council is elected (see paper 6b), it is expected that he or she will step down from active membership of other components of the governance model. At that point we would revisit the preferences members have expressed and propose replacement(s) that match those preferences as closely as possible and also take into account the balance and experience of the existing members of the bodies in question.

14. Each of the three Boards will have members from external interest groups in addition to the eight Council members. We will bring proposals to Council on 25 February 2009 as to the process for recruiting these external members.

**Recommendation:** To agree the proposed membership of the Committees, Reference Groups, Boards and other groups (Annex B).

### Resource implications

15. None directly from this paper.

### Equality implications

16. None directly from this paper.