

Agenda item:	5
Report title:	UKMLA next steps
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Considered by:	Directors Quarterly Update
Action:	To consider

Executive summary

An initial outline business case for the UK Medical Licensing Assessment was received favourably by Council.

To take the work forward the Project Sponsor, Judith Hulf, will agree work-streams across the GMC, each with its own sponsor at Director or Assistant Director level. A Project Manager will need to be appointed.

The project will be taken forward through the governance structures of Change Management and will be included in the innovation portfolio.

Given the sensitivities and complexities involved across the organisation, a UK Medical Licensing Assessment Executive Strategy Group could usefully be established to provide advice and consider strategic proposals.

Recommendations

The Strategy and Policy Board is asked to agree:

- a** That the Project Sponsor will decide the work-streams with advice from Directors.
- b** To establish a UK Medical Licensing Assessment Executive Strategy Group with membership and Terms of Reference as set out in the paper.

Background

- 1 Council considered a paper with an initial outline business case on the UK Medical Licensing Assessment (UKMLA) at its meeting on 2 June 2015. Council agreed that the GMC should continue to develop proposals, seeking the views and support of a wide range of experts and partners, with the intention of reporting back to Council within 12 months with a worked-up model for consideration prior to formal consultation.
- 2 We have since been engaged in discussions internally and with the Department of Health in England, the Medical Schools Council and assessment experts. A three-part model has been developed for further engagement. We envisage formal consultation in late 2016 with implementation for international medical graduates from 2019, replacing the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board test, and implementation for UK graduates from 2022.

Management

- 3 To date, the UKMLA project has been led by:
 - Judith Hulf, Senior Medical Adviser and Responsible Officer.
 - Martin Hart, Assistant Director, Education.
 - Kate Gregory, Joint Head of Education Quality Assurance, Visits.
 - Ben Griffith, Policy Manager.
- 4 We are currently making arrangements to appoint a Project Manager who will report to the UKMLA Sponsor, Judith Hulf.
- 5 The UKMLA Sponsor will agree work-streams across the GMC, with advice from Directors and the Project Manager, and subject to oversight from the Performance and Resources Board. Each work-stream will need its own lead and sponsor, at Assistant Director or Director level. The Project Manager will manage the work-streams with delivery and risk management overseen by the UKMLA Sponsor. Work-streams might cover:
 - a Assessment development and delivery:
 - i Part 1
 - ii Part 2
 - iii Part 3

- iv** Generic issues of assessment strategy, design and delivery.
 - b** Legal clarification and legislative change.
 - c** Communications.
 - d** Registration changes including exemptions for Parts 1 and 2.
 - e** Resources, to include IS, Finance, Facilities, for both development and operation.
 - f** Evaluation.
- 6** The development of the UKMLA will come under the Innovation Portfolio within the Change Management structure. It will therefore be subject to monthly reporting through the Project Management Office and to the governance arrangements that apply generally to projects covered by Change Management. That includes monthly management from the Performance and Resources Board and assurance oversight from Audit and Risk Committee.
- 7** The resource implications for both development and implementation will be considerable and will be identified by the UKMLA Project Manager and Sponsor, as advised by the work-stream leads. Some initial indications of potential start-up and running costs were summarised in the paper to Council but these were highly tentative and subject to decisions on strategy. A Project Code has been assigned and up to now resources have been allocated through the Education and Standards directorate.
- 8** A further priority for the period up to June 2016 will be engagement with assessment experts and key stakeholder organisations in light of the draft engagement plan. In particular, we intend to set up a series of discussions with medical schools covering a range of topics including our proposals for the UKMLA.

A UKMLA Executive Strategy Group

- 9** Given the complexity and sensitivity of the UKMLA, it may be helpful to establish a UKMLA Executive Strategy Group to provide strategic direction and tactical advice. We propose that the Group will be chaired by the Chief Executive and include the Chief Operating Officer, Directors and the Senior Medical Adviser. The Group would meet quarterly.
- 10** The proposed Terms of Reference at Annex A.

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5 – Annex A

UK Medical Licensing Assessment Executive Strategy Group Terms of Reference

Purpose

- 1 UK Medical Licensing Assessment (UKMLA) Executive Strategy Group provides strategic direction and tactical advice in the development of a UKMLA.
- 2 The UKMLA Executive Strategy Group will:
 - a Review the plans of the programme, providing direction as required to ensure alignment of activity with corporate and strategic needs.
 - b Consider high priority issues and mission-critical risks to provide advice and test the appropriateness and adequacy of mitigating or remedial actions.
 - c Consider strategic proposals for the UKMLA in light of identified objectives and benefits, resource constraints and acceptability to key stakeholders.

Membership

- 3 Membership of the UKMLA Executive Strategy Group to comprise:
 - a Chief Executive (Chair).
 - b Chief Operating Officer.
 - c Director of Education and Standards.
 - d Director of Resources and Quality Assurance.
 - e Director of Strategy and Communication.
 - f Director of Registration and Revalidation.
 - g General Counsel and Director of Fitness to Practise.

h Senior Medical Adviser and Responsible Officer.

4 Other staff may be invited to attend as required.

Meetings

5 The UKMLA Executive Strategy Group will meet quarterly.

Reporting and accountability

6 Major policy issues need to be considered by the Strategy and Policy Board prior to consideration by Council.