

Board Awayday, March 2010

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Head of Strategic Relations Paper reference: 10/12

Board meeting date: 26/01/2010 Confidentiality: **Open**

1. Issue

1.1.1 To consider the arrangements for the March Board awayday.

2. Recommendations

2.1.1 To note the administrative arrangements for the Board awayday.

2.1.2 To agree the proposed timetable for the awayday.

3. Consideration

3.1.1 The Board holds two awaydays each year. The next awayday is scheduled for 22 and 23 March 2010.

3.1.2 The awayday will be held at City Inn Manchester. As is traditional, we will start the awayday at lunchtime on the Monday and finish it at Tuesday lunchtime with a Board dinner on Monday night. It will then be followed by a Board meeting on the Tuesday afternoon to conduct any formal Board business.

3.1.3 At its previous awayday in September the Board asked that consideration be given to having the Board meeting separated from the awayday. We have not been able to do this on this occasion. We feel it is important to have a Board meeting in March to ensure there is not a long gap between meetings and it would need to be sufficiently close to the awayday to allow any formal resolutions flowing from the awayday to be passed. Diary management therefore made it difficult at this stage to find separate dates. However, Board views are welcomed as to whether they want us to look now at scheduling separate events in future.

- 3.1.4 With regard to the content today, a broad outline of suggested topics is attached, although timings have not been firmed up at this stage. We do think that key items will be developing actions arising from conclusions of the review; further discussion of our engagements and interventions; our role in support and training; and development of a maturity model for standards committees. The chair has also indicated that he wishes to discuss a framework for Board appraisals. However, board members' views are welcomed on any further areas they would wish to cover. This is of course our final awayday before the start of the new financial year and, almost certainly, ahead of the election, so we need to use the occasion to ensure the organisation is in as good a shape as possible going forward.
- 3.1.5 The Board will also wish to note that Tony Travers from the London School of Economics has accepted an invitation to the Board dinner on the Monday night and will lead a discussion on wider local government issues.

4. Risk and financial considerations

- 4.1.1 There is clearly a cost involved in hiring an outside venue rather than holding the awayday in the office. However, we believe the benefits of private uninterrupted space make the cost worthwhile.

5. Appendices and attachments

- 5.1.1 Appendix A: Possible outline for Board awayday