

To:	Legal Services Board	
Date of Meeting:	27 November 2013	Item: Paper (13) 79

Title:	Draft LSB Business Plan and budget proposal for 2014/15	
Workstream(s):	All	
Introduced by / Author:	Julie Myers , Corporate Director Edwin Josephs , Director of Finance and Services Michelle Jacobs , Business Planning Associate	
Status:	RESTRICTED	

Summary:
<p>Attached at Annex A, Board Members will find a proposed draft Business Plan for 2014/15. This remains work in progress in terms of proofing and finessing but is presented to the Board for discussion and approval in principle. It includes a re-affirmation of our equality objectives.</p> <p>The document also includes the budget proposal for 2014/15. This has been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee.</p>

Recommendation(s):			
The Board is invited to:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. review and discuss the draft Plan document 2. delegate final approval of the document to be issued for consultation to the Chairman and Chief Executive 3. agree to consult on the basis of a draft budget for 2014/15 of £4,298k (2013/14 £4,448k) – a reduction of £150k. 			
Risks and mitigations			
Financial:	Draft budget requires approval from MoJ		
Legal:	N/A		
Reputational:	Narrative reinforces LSB role and addresses matters of deregulation		
Resource:	Draft Plan highly ambitious within existing headcount		
Consultation	Yes	No	Who / why?
Board Members:		x	Priorities for Plan discussed at strategy session
Consumer Panel:		x	No areas have been identified yet for investigation by the LSCP. This will become clearer once the work programme has been firmed up.
Others:	Early version of Plan sent to MoJ for informal comment and will be sent to Minister		
Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Fol)			

Para ref	Fol exemption and summary	Expires
11- 42	Section 36(2)(b)(ii) – likely to inhibit the exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation	April 2014
Annex A	Section 22 – Information intended for future publication	N/A

LEGAL SERVICES BOARD

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Context

1. At its September 2013 strategy session, the Board reviewed its strategic objectives for the 2012-15 period and the work programme implied by those priorities. The session confirmed direction of travel and the Board provided a clear steer on budget and resources.
2. The steer from the Board was to continue on the same course as the previous two business plans and not to undertake major new initiatives. The plan should also emphasise how the LSB adds value by focusing more on the risks to the market and their impact on the sector and should emphasise how more proportionate and targeted regulation and governance could underpin economic growth, both in and beyond the legal sector, and benefits for consumers and business alike.
3. As part of the business plan development process, we held a pre-consultation stakeholder event attended by regulators, consumer groups, representative bodies and the research community. Attendees were given the opportunity to contribute any other issues that they felt presented risk to the legal services community and its consumers. The outcomes of the workshop are reflected in the plan.

Proposed business plan 2014/15

4. Based on the discussion had by the Board at its strategy day in September, subsequent discussion and the pre-consultation event, the executive has prepared the working draft plan attached at **Annex A**.
5. In the light of the Board's steer, the proposed annual programme of work for the year ahead is a continuation of the three year strategy published for 2012-15 and reiterates the Board's focus on ensuring regulatory effectiveness, delivering our statutory obligations and continuing our push for a less complex and burdensome regulatory framework in order to deliver benefits for society and the economy alike.
6. Throughout the document, we have sought to emphasise the role that proportionate regulation has on ensuring consumer protections, quality of service and creating an innovative and diverse profession. Specifically:
 - strong focus on regulatory performance in terms of modernisation
 - emphasising how, through a series of thematic reviews the work that we do adds value
 - linking the need for a more flexible, risk based regulatory framework with innovation and benefits to consumers and business.

7. Some work streams have been renamed to better reflect what we intend to do, for example the work that we started last year investigating “cost and complexity of regulation” is now called “regulatory reform” and the work previously titled “quality” is now more clearly signalled as “improving the consumer experience”.
8. As yet, no specific areas for Consumer Panel advice have been identified but we expect to identify at least one once the final suite of thematic reviews are confirmed post-consultation. **The Board may have ideas in this area at this stage.**
9. An earlier draft of the plan has been submitted to the Ministry of Justice for comment and by the time of the Board meeting it will have been submitted to the Minister for review of the budget proposal in particular in line with the requirements of our Framework Document. If any comments are received, we will circulate them to the Board for review.
10. We propose to conduct an eight week consultation ideally publishing the consultation in the week beginning 2 December 2013 alongside the Levy Rules consultation paper. This shorter period than usual acknowledges the holding of a pre-consultation event. The Board will be asked to approve the final Plan at its March meeting.

Proposed budget 2014/15

ARC consideration

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