
Welcome and Chairman's Update

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

The Chair informed the Board that since the last meeting he had met with the DWP Policy Advisor to discuss the national strategy .

The Chair informed the Board of the need to provide financial support to the debt advice framework to maintain existing capacity and increase future capacity.

Minutes of 17 March and 8 April actions

The Board agreed the minutes of 17 March and 8 April and noted the actions log.

April CEO report

The CEO updated the Board on current matters and the impact of Covid-19 on MaPS.

The Board noted that the Pensions Dashboard had published its first programme update.

The Board received an update on the digital teams work and the focus on the social media.

The Board noted that the Employee Assistance Programme usage had gone up.

The Board noted the lack of business continuity planning and asked that this work must be completed by September 2020.

March MI

The Board received an update on the operational MI and confirmation of the year end position for:

- debt advice – moving from amber to green
- money guidance – exceeded
- pensions guidance - nearly on target
- pensions freedoms – on target

Investment Pathways Comparator Tool

The Board received a detailed account of the background to the request by the FCA for MaPS to create an Investment Pathways Comparator tool. MaPS had commissioned Defaqto to create the income drawdown tool, but not the comparator analysis.

The Board agreed to vary the Defaqto contract to develop the investment pathways tool at £262,440 plus £29,340 maintenance.

Debt, Pensions and Money Guidance Commissioning

The Board received an overview of the current debt, pensions and money guidance commissioning thinking. The debt commissioning approach had been agreed in March and pensions freedoms and money guidance would be presented to the Board at the meeting in May.

2019/20 Underspend Lessons Learned

The Board noted the reasons why MaPS had a significant underspend in 2019/20; and received assurance that lessons had been learnt to reduce the likelihood of a significant underspend in 2020/21.

2020-21 Business and Operating Plan Update

The Board noted that the ELT were reframing MaPS strategic objectives and the timelines for finalisation of the corporate and operating plan.

Economic Impact Post Covid-19

The CEO reported that she would meet with the FCA to discuss the Economic Impact of Covid-19. It was noted that MaPS was working with the FCA in modelling the economic impact in collaboration with the Bank of England. The results of EKs survey would be included in this.

Strategic Risk Register

The Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee Chair updated the Board on the discussions at the recent ARAC meeting about risk RAG ratings. It was noted that the risks would be reviewed again by the ELT after their training and an updated strategic risk register presented to the June ARAC and July Board.

Gifts, Hospitality, Entertainment and Expenses Policy

The Board approved the Gifts, Hospitality, Entertainment and Expenses policy which had been reviewed and approved by ELT, FinCom and ARAC.

QAR Report

The CFO referred to the Quarterly Assurance Report and explained that this report was part of the quarterly review process by the DWP ALB team.

Colleague Survey Update

The People, Culture and Skills Director updated the Board the actions following the colleague survey in October 2019.

Update from 2019 Board Effectiveness Actions

The Chair referred to the Board Effectiveness Actions agreed from last year's review process and noted that all the actions had been completed.

Update from Finance and Investment Committee

The Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee reported that the Committee had discussed and agreed a proposal on practitioner-led money guidance.

Update from Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee inc. Audit Plan

The Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee Chair updated the Board on the discussions at the recent ARAC meeting. Four audit reports had all received a score of adequate assurance.

The ARAC Committee chair referred to the Mazars Internal Audit Plan that had been agreed and asked the Board to agree the plan as presented. The Board agreed the Internal Audit Plan.

Update from Devolved Administrations Committee

The Chair reported that at the Committee updated the nations on the UK National Strategy.

Adult Advisory Group Membership

The Chair informed the Board that that first Adult Advisory Group meeting was scheduled for May 2020.

Customer Delivery Model

It was agreed that the Customer Delivery Model would be presented to the Board as part of a workshop before the next Board meeting.

Forward Plan

The Board noted the forward plan.

AOB

The CFO referred to the debt advice funding discussed earlier in the meeting and noted that an extra Finance and Investment Committee meeting and Board meeting had been organised for the following day.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 16.09

