



## Ofwat Board

Meeting held on Thursday 7 February 2013

### Members in attendance

**Chairman:**

Jonson Cox

**Non-Executive Directors:**

Penny Boys

Robin Paynter Bryant

Wendy Barnes

**Chief Executive:**

Regina Finn

**Executive Directors:**

Sonia Brown

Keith Mason

### In attendance:

Stuart Crawford

(Senior Director of Corporate Services and Programme Management) – all items

Huw Brooker

(Director of Legal Services and Board Secretary) – all items

Dan Mason

(Assistant Board Secretary) – minutes

Andrew Beaver

(Director of Strategy) – item 5

### 1. Declarations of interest

1.1 None.

### 2. Minutes and actions arising

2.1 The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2012. The minutes would be published on the Ofwat website.

### 3. Budget and licence fee for financial year 2013-14

3.1 The Executive provided Board with an update on the proposals for the budget and licence fee for 2013-14, and the key changes since the last time this was discussed at Board in November 2012.

3.2 The Board discussed the proposed budget, licence fee and key issues that could impact on resource costs during the upcoming financial year.

These included the planned review of the Ofwat strategy by the refreshed Ofwat Board (including the new Chair and Non-Executive Directors), and the impact of any final methodology decisions in summer on resourcing for the Price Review.

- 3.3 In the light of this the Board approved the budget, subject to a review at the mid-year point when more cost uncertainties would have been resolved. That review would consider whether any cost savings could be achieved and if so whether any part of the licence fee should be returned to companies.

#### **4. Quarter 3 performance summary and risk report**

- 4.1 The Executive provided Board with the Quarter 3 performance summary and risk report, including contracts with a value in excess of £200,000.
- 4.2 The Board approved all the relevant contracts and requested that in future such contracts would be presented to the Board for pre-tender clearance.

#### **5. Strategic priorities**

- 5.1 The Board considered, and commented on, Jonson Cox's thoughts on key points he proposed to make in a speech to be given at a forthcoming event. Board members were invited to provide further comments directly. Board discussed the most effective way to manage the communication of the proposed speech.

#### **6. Chief Executive's report**

- 6.1 The Board received an update on key issues. These included:
- The announcement of water and sewerage bills for 2013-14;
  - The EFRA report on the draft Water Bill;
  - The Thames Tideway project;
  - The publication of the price review methodology consultation and City briefing; and
  - Responses to the consultation on proposed modifications to company licences.

6.2 Board received an update on the annual staff survey, the actions already taken to address key themes and the launch of the 'Building our Future' project which has been set up to take forward some new work. Board also discussed wider organisational issues including capability reviews and succession planning.

## **7. Any other business**

7.1 None.

**Dan Mason**  
**7 February 2013**