

To:	Legal Services Board		
Date of Meeting:	26 March 2019	Item:	Paper (19) 13

Title:	Final Business Plan and budget 2019/20
Workstream:	Corporate
Author / Introduced by:	Caroline Wallace, Strategy Director Steve Brooker, Head of Policy Development and Research Jenny Prior, Corporate Services Manager
Status:	Official

Summary:

This paper presents the summary of responses to our consultation on the new business plan. The paper includes a draft consultation response document and the draft final version of the Business Plan, which includes an activity schedule.

There are some key decisions for the Board to make, in the following areas:

- Confirmation of the five-year policy objectives
- What action, if any, to take on Non-Disclosure Agreements
- The scope and timing of the PCF review
- Whether to take forward any of the suggested areas for further work
- The Law Society's suggestion that the LSB require improved datasets on the profession from the regulators

Annexes

Annex A – proposed Business Plan (with indicative budget) for 2019/20

Annex B – a draft consultation response document that incorporates a summary of responses to the consultation

Recommendation(s):

The Board is invited to:

- **agree** the budget for 2019/20, as considered by ARAC at its meeting on 12 March 2019;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss and agree the proposed Business Plan for 2019/20; • note that the Chair and CEO will approve the final drafts of the business plan and consultation response document for publication. 	
Risks and mitigations	
Financial:	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
Legal:	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
Reputational:	<p>Low risk - we have consulted widely with stakeholders and taken their views into account while developing our business plan. Proposals in the draft business plan were broadly supported.</p>
Resource:	<p>Detailed resource planning has been undertaken and high level deliverable milestones have, where these are available at the outset of the business plan year, been identified by the project teams and agreed by the Senior Leadership Team. The business plan commitments are considered to be deliverable within existing resources.</p>

Consultation	Yes	No	Who / why?
Board Members:	X		The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee reviewed and endorsed the budget proposal at its March meeting.
Consumer Panel:	X		The LSCP submitted a response. The Strategy Director attended the LSCP January meeting to discuss the LSB's draft business plan.
Others:			Stakeholders from the legal services sector, government and other third parties (see consultation response document at Annex B for detailed list of respondents)

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Fol)		
Para ref	Fol exemption and summary	Expires
Risks and mitigations: Financial and Legal	Section 36(2)(b)(ii): information likely to inhibit the exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation	

Para 5 Para 9 bullets, 10 and 11		
Annexes A and B	Section 22: information intended for future publication	

LEGAL SERVICES BOARD

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Final Business Plan and budget 2019/20

Background and purpose of paper

1. At its November 2018 meeting, the Board agreed to consult on a draft Business Plan for 2019/20. The Plan included an indicative budget for 2019/20 of **£3,798k** (£3,798k 2018/19). The draft Plan was the subject of a 12 week consultation from December to February.
2. In line with previous years, the budget proposal is also submitted to Ministers for approval. The Lord Chancellor is required to approve the amount we collect via the levy each year. Whilst the Business Plan is not subject to Lord Chancellor approval, it does provide the basis for his decision-making.
3. Since 2015/16 it has been agreed with the MoJ that the LSB should consult on a draft Business Plan and a draft budget, making clear that the latter remained subject to Ministerial approval. At the time of consultation, Ministry of Justice officials had confirmed inclusion of the level of proposed budget in the 2019/20 overall departmental budget.
4. The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee met on 12 March 2019 and reviewed the budget proposal. The Committee was advised that the budget proposal, together with the Business Plan, had been submitted to Ministers for approval.
5. [REDACTED]
6. None of the consultation responses commented on the proposed budget.

Consultation on draft Business Plan 2019/20

7. On 5 December 2018, we published a consultation on our draft Business Plan for 2019/20. A workshop with 13 stakeholders was held on 29 January 2019. The consultation closed on 27 February 2019 and received 17 responses. This is an unusually high number of responses for a business plan consultation; it may reflect interest in the five-year policy objectives as well as our outreach efforts.

8. Overall, responses were welcoming of our proposals. We have taken account of the feedback in amending the draft business plan document, at **Annex A**. The draft response document, at **Annex B**, summarises the main issues.

9. There are a number of issues where a board decision is needed:

- **Confirmation of the five-year policy objectives** [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- **Non-Disclosure Agreements** [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- **The scope and timing of the PCF review** [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- **Suggested areas for further work** [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- **The Law Society’s suggestion that the LSB require improved datasets on the profession from the regulators** – [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
10. [REDACTED]
11. [REDACTED]
12. The consultation responses are available if Board members wish to review them and they will be available at the Board meeting. They will all be published on our website alongside the final Business Plan in due course.

Next steps

13. Our next steps are to finalise and polish the draft documents so that final versions can be published on our website for the start of the new financial year.
14. The final business plan includes initial thinking on timings for all of our projects where available and we will update the latest position on our website quarterly, including as project plans for the initial work on the five year objectives are developed. The activity schedule at the end of Annex A represents our initial thinking, which we expect to refine following the board discussion.