

**Health Professions Council**  
**14 December 2006**

**ROLE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Executive Summary and Recommendations**

**Introduction**

Among the topics discussed at the Council away day was consideration of the role of the Council Vice-President.

The group which considered this topic recommended that a paper on the role of the Vice-President should be considered at the December 2006 Council meeting.

The Health Professions Order 2001 makes no mention of the election or the role of a Vice-President.

The decision to elect a Vice-President was taken by the Shadow Health Professions Council.

Standing Order 8 states:

The Council may appoint a member to be Vice-President of the Council and the Vice-President shall preside at any meeting of the Council at which the President is absent.

The role of the Vice-President was agreed at the December 2004 Council meeting as part of the members' Code of Conduct. The role is as follows;

*In addition to his or her role as a Council member, the Vice-President will:*

- *deputise for the President when he or she is not available; and in deputising for the President, follow the role description given above (see background information for role of President below).*

Council is asked to consider the following options;

- (i) that the role of the Vice-President should remain as agreed by Council in December 2004;
- (ii) that the role of the Vice-President should be amended and that members should email the Secretary to Council with suggestions as to what the amended role should be. The Executive would put a further paper to Council with proposals for an amended role in March 2007;
- (iii) that there is no role for the Vice-President and that deputising for the President could be carried out by any nominated Council member with appropriate expertise in that area.

**Decision**

The Council is asked to consider the above options and agree a way forward.

## **Background information**

1. The Secretariat contacted 7 regulators regarding the role of their Vice-President. Of the 5 regulators who responded 2 did not have a Vice-President (GMC and GDC, the GDC took the decision to abolish the role) and the other 3 had a similar role to that agreed by Council in December 2004.

2. The role of the Council President

In addition to his or her role as a Council member, the HPC President will also:

- provide strong non-executive leadership, and encourage open and pro-active accountability to the public and the professions;
- act as an ambassador for the Council, inspiring confidence in the organisation and representing the interests of statutory regulation to outside bodies;
- develop and maintain constructive collaboration, networking and consultation with key stakeholders, and others when required;
- uphold public interest in all that the HPC undertakes;
- chair meetings of Council (see information above on the role of a committee chairman);
- monitor and develop Council members' performance, providing support as necessary; and
- manage the Council's Chief Executive so as to secure effective oversight of the development and achievement of the Council's strategic, policy and operational objectives and compliance with its statutory responsibilities.
  - set the Chief Executive's objectives
  - monitor the Chief Executive's performance against these objectives

## **Resource implications**

None

## **Financial implications**

None

## Appendices

None

## Date of paper

30 November 2006