Summary of decisions taken
This is an informal summary of the main decisions made at the April 2013 Council meeting. The full agenda and public papers are available on our website at: http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/about-us/who-we-are/gphc-council/council-meetings

Draft minutes of the meeting will be published as part of the papers for the Council meeting on 13 June 2013.

Public Inquiry into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust: Key issues for pharmacy regulation
The Council:
- reaffirmed its support for the first overarching recommendation in the Francis report;
- agreed that the executive be tasked with ensuring detailed action planning is taken forward and embedded within the revised corporate planning process;
- agreed that priority be given to the key themes set out in the paper i.e. patient experience and patient voice; transparency; candour; whistleblowing and professionalism, with the addition of partnership working; and
- requested that the GPhC prepare a focussed statement setting out the GPhC’s initial response to the Inquiry.

Directed Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources (RIPA Powers)
The Council agreed that RIPA powers to authorise directed surveillance and the use of covert human intelligence sources should be sought in line with the recommendations set out in the Office of Surveillance Commissioners Report.

Education priorities and strategy for 2013-2016
The Council agreed:
- i. That an expert task and finish group should be established to carry out a review of our standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists.
- ii. That an expert task and finish group should be established to carry out a review of our standards for the initial education and training of pharmacy technicians.
- iii. That the executive be tasked with developing specific proposals to respond to issues of risk identified with the pre-registration training year for pharmacists in England and Wales.
iv. That further planning work be undertaken to consider necessary longer term challenges and issues within pharmacist and pharmacy technician education and training with, a report to be presented to Council in Autumn 2013.

Review of elements of the governance framework
The Council agreed revisions to the following documents:

i. the Council values;
ii. the code of conduct for Council members and GPhC associates;
iii. the standards of education and training for Council members and GPhC associates;
iv. the standards of attendance at meetings for Council members and GPhC associates;
v. the Audit & Risk committee and Remuneration Committee terms of reference;
vi. the non-statutory committee standing orders; and
vii. the procedure for appointment of members of the Audit & Risk and Remuneration Committees.

The Council also agreed that the Underpinning Principles document will be retained in the governance framework but not updated in future.

Introduction of a behavioural framework for Council
The Council agreed the behavioural framework subject to a review of the behavioural statements set out in Appendix 1.

Council members’ remuneration
On recommendation from the Remuneration Committee the Council agreed that there be:

- no change to the remuneration rates of the Chair and Members of the GPhC’s Council; and
- no change to the discretionary payments for the Chairs of the Audit & Risk and Remuneration Committees.

Appointments to the Audit & Risk and Remuneration Committees
The Council agreed that Soraya Dhillon fill the vacancy on the Audit & Risk Committee and that Gordon Dykes fill the vacancy on the Remuneration Committee for a period of one year from 1 April 2013.
The Council also agreed the appointment of Paul Hart as an External Member of the Remuneration Committee.

If you require any further information regarding the decisions of the Council, please contact Francesca Chittenden at francesca.chittenden@pharmacyregulation.org or 020 3365 3522.