Executive Summary

Welcomes and farewells
The Academy welcomed Professor Lindsey Davies, the new President of the Faculty of Public Health to her first full meeting and congratulated Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran and Professor Terence Stephenson on their election as Honorary Secretary and third vice-chairman of the Academy respectively.

The Academy also recorded its sincere thanks to Professor Sir Ian Gilmore, Professor Andy Adam and Professor Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran for their work as College representatives on the Academy as they were all demitting office. The Academy also thanked Professor Adrian Newland for his considerable work as Honorary Secretary to the Academy following his work as a College representative.

White Paper “Liberating the NHS” and the Outcomes Framework
The Academy considered the new White Paper and consultation paper on the outcomes framework. The approach of a clinician led NHS was welcomed. It was recognised that if Medical Education England was to take on responsibility for commissioning education and training its structure and governance would need to be reviewed.

The Academy recognised that the outcomes framework was a core issue for Colleges and it would be responding to the consultation. The consultation would be discussed at the meeting for College Clinical Leads taking place on 28 July 2010.

GMC statement on College exams
Whilst the progress made was welcomed there remained concern at the uncertainty for future trainees. The Academy was preparing a response to the issues raised by the GMC about College exams.

E-Learning for Healthcare
The Academy noted that following representations made by Colleges, funding had been found to continue the electronic platform and run existing products. However, funding for development work had been considerably reduced and there would have to be a prioritising exercise. Professor Sir Neil Douglas had been asked to join the DH group looking at priorities.

Faculty for Medical Leadership and Management
The Academy welcomed the progress made in work being led by the RCP (L) and RCGP on developing proposals for what has been initially called a Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management. The Academy endorsed the need for an inclusive approach that would involve all Colleges and Faculties. The Academy endorsed a statement for circulation whilst making clear that no firm decisions had yet been made on the detailed role, governance and name of any faculty.

Centre for Workforce Intelligence (CWI)
Members expressed continuing concern about the role and operation of the CWI and agreed it was essential for there to be clarity over the basis of how Colleges should engage with the CWI. It was agreed that the Academy Chairman should take this forward on behalf of Colleges.
European Council Accreditation of Medical Specialist Qualifications
The Academy agreed that its considerable concerns at proposals from UEMS be raised by John Black at their next meeting in October.

Clinical Service Accreditation
The Academy agreed a joint statement with the Royal College of Nursing on the principles that should underpin clinical service accreditation. The statement will be going to the DH National Quality Board and will be placed on the Academy website.

College of Medicine
The Academy expressed considerable concern over a statement put out on behalf of the proposed College of Medicine. Not only was the name of the organisation potentially confusing and misleading but the tone of the statement was concerning. All Colleges confirmed they had no formal involvement. The Academy agreed to write a letter to the key promoters of the College of Medicine expressing Colleges’ concerns.

Telemedicine
The Academy adopted a statement on the need to regulate telemedicine. It was agreed that patients deserved the same level of safety and assurance from telemedicine as from face to face care. The Academy will take this issue forward.

Health Inequalities
It was noted that Sir Michael Marmot was keen to work with the Academy on health inequality issues and agreed this should be through Professor Steve Field as chair of the Academy Health Inequalities Forum.

Accommodation
The Academy agreed the proposed purchase of a property in Dallington Street, London EC1 as it is permanent office.

Governance
The proposed new Articles of Association, incorporating some minor changes proposed by Colleges, have now been agreed by all Colleges and have been sent to the Charity Commission for approval. The new Articles will be formally adopted by the Academy at its September meeting.

Release for College activities
Members expressed concern at the increasing difficulty in securing in securing release for fellows from their trusts to participate in College activity. The Academy agreed to take this up with the Department of Health and ministers setting out the benefits to the NHS of College work including the cost benefits.

Joint work with other organisations
The Academy endorsed the principle of working with other organisations where there was agreement on a policy issue whilst ensuring there was member support for any proposed work.

Platinum CEA Awards
It was agreed that the Academy would ensure there was lay involvement in the platinum awards process.