Technical Working Groups - Planned Agenda   **PAPER 3**

Background

At the SORP Committee's June meeting it was agreed that certain key technical issues identified in research commissioned by CAPE (Review of Public Benefit SORPs - February 2008) should be initially delegated to Technical Sub Committees for consideration. The role of the Technical Sub Committees would be to act as working groups to considering particular technical issues and to develop a preferred approach to them for subsequent consideration by the full SORP Committee. In this paper these 'Sub Committees' are referred to as technical working groups.

A separate technical working group would be set up for each key issue identified by the CAPE research and the membership of each group would be drawn from membership of the SORP Committee with particular interests or expertise in the issue being considered. It was envisage that each working group would have up to five members and would commence their work in late autumn.

Members were asked to confirm with the Secretariat their interest in particular issues that had been identified. To facilitate this process a 'return form' was sent to each SORP Committee member in early October requesting details of their topic preferences and availability. A copy of this 'return form' which provides details of the 6 technical issues identified is attached as an appendix to this paper.

Next Steps

A schedule will be circulated at the meeting, based on the 'return forms' submitted to the Secretariat, setting out the proposed membership of each technical working group and the dates scheduled for meetings. The SORP Committee will be asked to agree the membership of each working group.

It was also agreed that each working group could co-opt an external member if it was felt that to do so would contribute an expert view or perspective to the issue considered.

Question:

Q1. Does the SORP Committee consider a co-opted member should be included in the membership of any of the working group?

The initial roundtables have provided some reassurance that the initial listing of technical topics is relevant. Feedback from the Roundtables held to date indicates that questions surrounding designated funds, capital grants, the structure and terminology of the SoFA and recognition of multi-period funding arrangements are all priority issues for the sector.

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As indentified in the Paper 2 (Initial Roundtable Feedback) it is anticipated that further technical issues will be identified as the series of roundtable events proceeds. It is proposed that where a clear consensus on an issue can be identified that the key findings should be referred to a working group to develop proposals for consideration by the full SORP Committee. In other cases the issue will be tabled for discussion at the full SORP Committee to determine how a particular issue should be progressed.

Question:

Q2. Do any further issues arise from the proposal for the membership and agenda set for the technical working groups?

RESEARCH AGENDA			PAPER 3.1
Respondent (Name):			
Issue	**Involvement** **(Yes/No)**	**Preference** **(1 to 6)** **1=high** **preference** **to be** **involved**	**Dates** **(please** **delete date** **not** **available)**
Designated funds - consistency IPB-SoP and other SORPs; disclosure in primary statements or notes/TAR; 'window dressing' or conveying 'relevant information'.			12 Nov AM 12 Nov PM 14 Nov AM 14 Nov PM 17 Nov AM 17 Nov PM
Capital grants and funding - recognition points; deferral; conditions preventing recognition; consistency with IPB-SoP, SSAP4 and other SORPs.			15 Dec AM 15 Dec PM 17 Dec AM 17 Dec PM 19 Dec AM 19 Dec PM
Consolidations and Combinations - what does control mean in context of a 'trust interest'; what is meant by 'benefit' in the context of a 'trust interest'; what is an acquisition or merger in the context of charities; consistency with FRS2 and FRS6.			12 Jan AM 12 Jan PM 14 Jan AM 14 Jan PM 16 Jan AM 16 Jan PM
The structure of primary statements - Consistency of SoFA with FRS2; disclosure of restricted and endowment funds; complexity (clutter); approaches adopted by other public-benefit SORPs.			9 Mar AM 9 Mar PM 11 Mar AM 11 Mar PM 13 Mar AM 13 Mar PM
Narrative and non-financial reporting, including annual report/OFR - role of TAR, what do users of accounts want, annual reporting and small charities?			15 Apr AM 15 Apr PM 17Apr AM 17 Apr PM 20 Apr AM 20 Apr PM
Recognition of multi-period funding arrangements - asset/liability test or matching; implied conditions; entitlement; what are unavoidable commitments; what is entitlement in absence of legal redress; performance related grants; consistency with FRS 12, FRS 5, IPB-SoP and other SORPs.			18 May AM 18 May PM 20 May AM 20 May PM 22 May AM 22 May PM