PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ASSOCIATION’S CONSTITUTION

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Compulsory Purchase Association will take place on Tuesday 21 May 2013 at 6pm at the offices of Squire Sanders, 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4YH for the purpose of approving amendments to the Association’s constitution.

This document contains a statement of reasons for the proposed amendments in accordance with Rule 17 of the constitution.

Overall, the changes are proposed to try to ensure that the committee of the Association is more democratic and that it is easier for members to participate in the work of the committee. Under the current rules there are only five elected committee positions. The proposed changes also recognise that as committee members now often work on long-term projects, such as law reform proposals, having everyone elected annually is unduly disruptive to continuity of membership. In addition, it is recognised that the Association’s constitution is 10 years old and should be updated in some respects. Following discussion, the committee has agreed to put forward proposals which reflect the following principles:

- a committee of 15 people is appropriate, an increase of one member;
- the number of elected members should be increased by reducing the number of co-opted places from four to two;
- the number of places on the committee available for election should also be increased by having the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer drawn from the committee rather than directly elected to those posts;
- overall, the number of elected places on the committee would increase from five to ten;
- the term served by committee members should be increased from one to two years;
- half the committee should be elected each year in rotation so as to maintain a reasonable turnover of committee members;
- the chairman and vice-chairman would remain directly elected and for a one year term;
- the chairman and vice-chairman would have to have served on the committee prior to being eligible to stand for election, to ensure that they had sufficient experience of the committee’s work before taking these leadership positions.

There is a proposal to allow electronic voting rather than postal ballots which ought both to save the CPA costs but also encourage a higher degree of participation in elections to the committee.

A new rule 19 is to be added to ensure that the branches, including the CPA in Scotland and Wales, have formal recognition in the constitution. The branches have existed for many years in some areas and are very active. It was considered an anomaly that the role of the branches was not recognised in the constitution. The CPA Committee will have the formal role of appointing a convenor for each branch.

The schedule to the constitution is to be updated to reflect changes in the constitution and names of professional organisations, including the merger of the ASI into the CIOB, and to define land referencing generally rather than by using the names of particular companies.

A copy of the proposed amended constitution will be available at: www.compulsorypurchaseassociation.org.

The EGM will be followed by a drinks reception. All members are encouraged to attend.

CPA National Committee
March 2013

@cp_assoc