

# Natural England Board



Title: **Confirmed minutes of the seventy third Natural England Board meeting on 13 September 2017**

<b>Members attending</b>	<b>Senior Leadership Team</b>
Andrew Sells (Chairman)	Tim Hill, Chief Scientist
Julia Aglionby	Paul Lambert, Chief Transformation Officer
Will Cockbain	Alan Law, Chief Strategy and Reform Officer
Andy Clements	Guy Thompson, Chief Operating Officer
Teresa Dent	Julie Lunt, Chief Officer Legal and Governance
Joe Horwood	<b>Guests</b>
Simon Lyster	<b>Item 2</b> Kirsty Shaw, Director for Service Delivery (APHA) Michelle Reynolds Rob Cooke (item 3) <b>Items 4&amp;5</b> Caroline Cotterell David Vose Susannah England Sarah Dawkins <b>Item 6</b> Adelle Rowe (Area Manager) Abdul Razaq Nathan Paget (item 7)
Nigel Reader	<b>Secretariat</b> Lidia Hingle. Board and Executive Services Team
James Cross, Chief Executive and ex-officio Board member	
Apologies – Michael Winter	

## **Welcome from the Chairman and Declaration of Interests**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Michael Winter.

In addition to the usual declarations of interest, declarations were received from:

- Nigel Reader who reminded the Board of his non – Natural England portfolio but confirmed there were no conflicts with the agenda
- Teresa Dent referred to item 6 on the agenda, the Chief Executive's Report, and declared an interest in light of the reference to the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust.

### **1. Confirmation of the July minutes and Matters Arising (NEB 72 01)**

1.1 The minutes of the meeting were confirmed subject to correction of the main points of detail.

- Under 2.1.2 which was to make clearer the areas of work being transferred to the RPA.
- Under 6.2, which was to be specific about how many Pioneer Projects Natural England are leading on behalf of Defra
- Under action 19.4.3 which was to re-phrase the action relating to lead shot.
- Under the Actions Log Update, to reconcile action in the narrative with action 9 on the log and to clarify its meaning

**Action: Board minute Secretary to produce final confirmed July Board minutes.**

1.1.2 The Board noted the actions from the July meeting were confirmed or in progress.

### **2. Countryside Stewardship Transactions Hubs in Natural England (NEB 73 02)**

2.1.1 Kirsty Shaw reported on progress being made in response to the challenge by the Secretary of State to simplify all aspects of the Countryside Stewardship (CS) programme across the whole range of activities.

2.2 In discussion, the Board

2.2.1 Recognised the complex work being undertaken across the breadth of the project.

2.2.2 Noted the progress being made by the project in defining the governance arrangements to the transactional transfer, preparation on organisation design and structure, clarifying roles and responsibilities across all grades, evidence requirements and culture shifts.

2.2.3 Noted the proposed areas for change and improvement in the way that CS is delivered including the gathering of data from across multiple individual sources in order to upload in bulk onto the system; improvements to search functions; and options to change the way we demonstrate appropriate control (e.g. via random risk based checks).

2.2.4 Endorsed the search for an expert on continuous improvement.

- 2.2.5 Noted the progress being made to take on and train the resources required in advance of upcoming peak activity which is being centralised into areas of expertise.
- 2.2.6 Noted the team are working towards a full on-line unified scheme option, linked to the Basic Payments Scheme by 2019 and that the uniform start date will still apply.
- 2.2.7 Acknowledged that deadlines and backlogs are dependent on IT fixes and regular figures are submitted to Ministers weekly on this. Noted that it has been made clear to Ministers that Defra own and lead the process.
- 2.2.8 The Board requested regular provision of management information on performance to keep them informed between meetings and as part of the monthly paper/verbal update to the Board.

**Action: Kirsty Shaw to regularly share management information on performance in transactional processing of Countryside Stewardship to keep the Board informed of progress.**

- 2.2.9 Were reassured of the residual risks on Environmental Stewardship (ES) are being mitigated and the team are able to deliver on ES performance. The Board were pleased that there is a visible improvement on the quality and outcomes focussed applications consistent with organisational direction.
- 2.2.10 Were concerned about the loss of large numbers of FTEs and associated skills in ES but reassured that staff with these skills are being identified and retained to continue working on ES until 2024 until there is a slow run down of profile. The Board noted that consideration is being given to staff and are being accommodated as far as business need allows and that there are regular consultations with the Unions.
- 2.2.11 Noted that the Board paper does not mention the RPA explicitly regarding the transfer of staff and requested that the transfer of Countryside Stewardship work is mentioned clearly in the next iteration.

**Action: Kirsty Shaw to redraft the paper in the next iteration to be explicit about under which organisation Countryside Stewardship staff will sit.**

- 2.2.12 Were aware that the organisation would not have capacity to deliver future schemes but could present opportunities in other ways, particularly in designing the next scheme and potentially adding value delivering front line advice in line with our Conservation 21 ambitions.
- 2.2.13 Agreed that the continued good relationship with the RPA CEO represents a significant shift in revitalising outcomes in this area.
- 2.2.14 Acknowledged that the team are still learning but that they are working well in difficult circumstances.

### **3. Day 1 Readiness for EU Exit Programme (NEB 73 02)**

- 3.1 Rob Cooke joined the meeting to give an update on the work of the EU Exit Programme, including the progress in assessing Day 1 Readiness.
- 3.2 In discussion, the Board

- 3.2.1 Noted that Chairman has been invited to sit on the Defra EU Exit Prioritisation meetings with the Defra Board, Permanent Secretary and Defra Directors General to have high level oversight of Defra's EU Exit programme and understand the risks around prioritisation.
- 3.2.2 Advised that the Board will also want to be involved and be seen to be leading on this work but acknowledged that the Day 1 Readiness issues will need to be presented to Board several times.
- 3.2.3 Julia Aglionby cited an interesting report from the UK Environmental Law Association (UKELA) entitled 'Brexit and Environmental Law: The UK and International Environmental Law after Brexit' She offered to circulate it to Teresa Dent and other Board members if interested.
- 3.2.4 Noted that ARAC will stand over the risks around the Day 1 Readiness for EU Exit Programme and will receive regular updates in this regard.

#### **4 Proposed variation to the boundary of the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NEB 73 03)**

- 4.1 Julie Lunt, Chief Legal Officer, reminded the Board about their legal powers and the matters that they needed to keep in mind in their deliberations about this AONB variation.
- 4.2 Chairman welcomed Caroline Cotterell to the meeting who introduced David Vose, Susannah England from the project team and Sarah Dawkins the Area Manager. The Board were asked to consider and approve the assessments in support of the proposed variation to the boundary of the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths (SC&H) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the undertaking of the statutory and public consultation.
- 4.3 Caroline Cotterell set out the context, the Area Team perspective and the case for variation, details of which were contained in the Officers' Report which also included the detailed assessment, area maps, the explanation and the evidence in support of the recommendations.
- 4.4 Simon Lyster and Joe Horwood reflected on their site visit in April and agreed that the area possesses many of the factors outlined in the Evaluation Framework of the Guidance and particularly noted its tranquillity given its proximity to the Port area.
- 4.5 In discussion the Board
  - 4.5.1 Commended the team on the impressive set of supporting papers and appreciated the immense care and diligence taken over the details.
  - 4.5.2 Noted that although this piece of work pre-dates our Conservation 21 ambitions, it ties in by allowing NE to demonstrate a landscape scale approach. It also shows we are responsive to local priorities delivering beneficial outcomes for the environment through others (net gain, significant wildlife value and well managed land) and helps to achieve partner ambitions.
  - 4.5.3 Agreed with the officer decision not to include the qualifying area between Manningtree and Mistley, south of the railway, as it did not merit "washing over"

Mistley Place Park and the recreation land to the south of this which has been assessed as not having sufficient natural beauty to qualify.

- 4.5.4 Tim Hill assured the Board that he had reviewed the Technical Assessment and gave assurances that:
- the Board could take comfort that the supporting papers were robust, consistent, transparent and well presented;
  - a rigorous assessment was made both of the natural beauty and desirability criteria and were both clearly set out; and.
  - the boundary had been considered in detail, particularly in regards to the wash-over area.
- 4.5.5 The Board were advised of the protocols and procedures in regards to the timings of the public consultation process, potential Ministerial sign off and the circumstances in which it might go to Public Inquiry.
- 4.5.6 In considering the evidence contained in the papers and the presentations, the Board agreed with the recommendations made to them:
- that the areas proposed have sufficient natural beauty to merit AONB designation;
  - that it is desirable for these areas to be designated as a variation to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB for the purpose of conserving and enhancing their natural beauty; and
  - that the proposed boundary is appropriate
- 4.5.7 The Board concluded that approval should be given for a statutory and public consultation to be undertaken on the proposed variation to the SC&H AONB.

**Action: Caroline Cotterell and team to confirm with all parties the undertaking of the statutory and public consultation for variation to the boundary of the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.**

## **5 A Review of Natural England's Approach to statutory landscape designation delivery (NEB 73 04)**

- 5.1 David Vose, Susannah England and Sarah Dawkins were invited to stay for this item. Caroline Cotterell introduced the paper which sought to respond to Ministerial request to streamline national landscape designation process and consider how these landscapes can better meet society's needs; to agree the scope for this review and to advise on the creation of an expert panel to support the work.
- 5.1.1 In discussion, the Board:
- 5.1.2 Noted the proposed "task and finish" group would include interested external partners and draw on the good practice of NESAC to take forward this work.
- 5.1.3 Welcomed the inclusion of the flow chart and requested an additional time-line.
- 5.1.4 Board requested the process be expedited to bring back initial findings in January 2018.

**Action: Board Secretariat to schedule a discussion on progress on the**

## **Review of Natural England's Approach to statutory landscape designation delivery in January 2018**

- 5.1.5 Supported the plan to bring landscape designations in line with other designations and to consider where it is most effective in supporting the delivery of local area plans and focus areas.
- 5.1.6 The Board were content with the scope of the review and the plan to set up the expert panel in finding a more expedient way of delivering the designations.
- 5.1.7 The Chairman thanked Teresa Dent and Simon Lyster for volunteering to take part in the panel.

### **6 Chief Executive's Report (NEB 73 05)**

- 6.1 James Cross introduced his Chief Executive's Report and welcomed Adelle Rowe, Area Manager of Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Area Team for item 6.14 and Abdul Razaq, NE Finance Director, Defra Finance.

#### 6.1.1 Risk Management

Board were asked for their comments on the content of the risk register particularly the red RAG ratings and the alignment between appetite for specific risks and actual content.

- 6.1.2 Welcomed the inclusion of species extinction on the register but questioned the phrasing of the risk and suggested revised wording by the next iteration.

#### **Action: Alan Law to propose revised wording of the species extinction risk on the Corporate Risk register**

- 6.1.3 With regards to health and safety agreed that we should be learning from other Defra ALBs which have a better performance on "near hits"
- 6.1.4 The Board agreed that the themes and general content of the risk register was accurate and helpful and the CEO would welcome Board advice in respect of the species extinction risk.

#### 6.2 2017/18 GIA Financial Performance

Noted that cost recovery for new activity should be reflected in the Ministerial submission requesting clearance on statutory wildlife charging.

- 6.3 Noted that ExCo has the ultimate "clearance" role for the process for agreeing budget transfers within Defra each quarter.

#### **Action: Abdul Razaq to provide to Chairman the expected percentage reduction in GIA predicted for 18/19**

#### 6.4 Application for trial re-introduction of lynx to the Kielder Forest area.

Noted that Natural England have received an application.

#### **Action: Alan Law to stand over this work and keep Board Members sighted on the developments.**

#### 6.5 Air Quality.

The Board were briefed that we were working with Defra on the potential role of CSF in improving air quality (ammonia).

- 6.5.1 Noted the publication of the Defra Clean Air Strategy in spring 2018 which should include a compelling narrative of the environmental benefits of clean air.
- 6.5.2 Noted that Professor Ian Boyd has invited Tim Hill to join an Air Quality Strategic Leadership Group and to lead an external panel to develop an evidenced-based narrative of the environmental impacts of air pollution.
- 6.6 Hen Harrier Update  
Board members requested that they would like to be kept up to date with the brood management project.
- 6.6.1 Noted that because the application is novel and contentious, work is being undertaken to reconcile both NE's role as the licensing authority and our input into the technical aspects via the project group. ARAC advice on this work will be sought.
- 6.6.2 Noted that NE expects to be in a position to license in October.
- 6.7 Wildfowling Guidance Review Consultation  
The Board welcomed the consultation as part of wider reforms of consenting on protected sites and agreed longer consents meant greater flexibility and aligns with the organisation's strategic direction.
- 6.8 Afforestation  
The Board were concerned about the perception of NE when handling the breach of existing ELS scheme on the Estate but agreed the facts of the case were very clear and easy to prove. The Board suggested that the Minister should be sighted.
- 6.9 Blythburgh Estate  
The Board suggested members try to ascertain if any of their contacts and networks have a professional relationship with the owner in order to ease discussions about future management of his land to support environmental interests.
- 6.9.1 The Board agreed that ARAC would stand over the financial aspects of the Blythburgh case.
- 6.10 Buzzard Licences  
The Board noted that a decision on the Northumberland licence is still pending but early indications suggest fewer birds have been shot.
- 6.11 Framework Document  
The Board noted that the Framework Document has now been published and the Chairman encouraged Board members to read it.
- 6.12 Defra Group Non-Executive Directors  
The Board noted the proposal from Defra for greater levels of engagement of Non-Executive Directors across the Group.
- 6.13 Natural Flood Management  
The Board considered how to improve their engagement with this area of work.
- 6.14 Area Manager for Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Area Team  
The Board welcomed Adelle Rowe to the meeting; she gave an update and overview of the current work activities, structure, priorities and challenges of her

team.

6.14.1 In response to the update, the Board thanked Adelle and made the following comments

6.14.2 Were very supportive of the innovative links the team have made with stakeholders and marginalised/vulnerable young people in promoting practical conservation work as a vehicle for improving life skills. They welcomed the fact that the project was being expanded to older children, offering other opportunities and links to Natural Capital.

6.14.3 Concerned about the capacity in the team to take on long term Estate Management Plans but were assured that the team are finding ways to free up time to invest in this area of work, however, the Board acknowledged that more help is needed in influencing complex relationships with partners.

6.15 Legal Update

The Board noted the contents of the update and Simon Lyster and Joe Horwood declared an interest in the Langton case.

6.16 Enforcement regime for invasive species.

The Board noted the contents of the update

**Action: Guy Thompson to ensure that Invasive Alien Species enforcement should be logged as a risk.**

6.17 Chief Scientist Report

The Board welcomed the paper and noted the success of recent survey work for the Long Term Monitoring Network (LTMN) and that a LTMN baseline report will be published shortly.

6.18 Performance Report to end of July 2017

The Board noted the contents of the Performance Report.

**7 Response to the Internal Audit Report – Review of Lessons Learnt from CAP agri-environment payments 2016 EU financial year (NEB 73 06)**

7.1 The Board welcomed Nathan Paget, the Defra Group Head of Internal Audit. Julie Lunt introduced the session to help develop a clearer understanding of Natural England's role as a Delegated Authority.

7.1.1 The Board were reminded of the three main strands of work arising from the Internal Audit report on safe payments 1) governance systems and processes; 2) culture; and 3) a board effectiveness review. The draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the cultural element of the review will be circulated for comment as soon as it is available.

7.1.2 Nigel Reader offered to support the external person brought in for the Board Effectiveness Review element and ARAC would continue to stand over delivery of all NE components of the Management Action Plan.

7.1.3 The Board considered the lines of responsibility, accountability and control and agreed that a clearer understanding of these would reduce the assumptions made from outside the organisation about its operational and legal remit. The Board

requested a copy of the list.

**Action: Julie Lunt to send Board the list on page 4 of the presentation which listed the delegated agri-environment scheme functions.**

- 7.1.4 Noted that while members of the Senior Leadership Team do not have a decision making role in relation to matters that fall under the Delegated Authority Agreement they will still need to be sighted on strategic risks (rather than risks associated with specific casework).
- 7.1.5 Acknowledged the point made by Nathan Paget that Governance issues have not been sufficiently addressed against the significant changes made in Defra and that all parties need to develop more understanding in this area and take the principles forward in a more practical way, particularly in the context of EU Exit.
- 7.1.6 Noted the next steps would be to gather all NE senior leaders together to discuss governance arrangements around the Delegated Authority Agreement. It was anticipated that the cultural “reset” element of the overall Governance Review would take longer. The Board agreed the importance of regular reporting to ARAC.

**Action: Board Services to schedule a discussion on the findings and lessons learned from the Governance Review early in 2018 (date TBC) and ensure progress reports are submitted to ARAC**

- 7.1.7 Reflected that the Board member induction should include information on governance.

**Action: Board Services to refresh Board member induction to take account of governance**

- 7.1.8 The Board thanked Julie for the presentation and Nathan for his attendance and “big picture” perspective. The Board endorsed the ToRs for the governance process review and the Board effectiveness review.

## **8 Medium Term Financial Plan and 2018/19 Business Planning (NEB 73 07)**

- 8.1 Abdul Razaq introduced the paper to share the revised medium-term financial plan with the Board, and to sight the Board on the current 2018/19 business planning activities.
- 8.2 In discussion, the Board:
  - 8.2.1 Noted the figures set out in the financial projections and were concerned that, beyond the efficiencies in programme delivery already made, there will be a significant impact on the affordability of some core business and anticipated further budgetary pressures.
  - 8.2.2 Noted the approach taken for the 2018/19 Business Planning round and agreed with the priorities which underpin our financial planning set out in the paper.
  - 8.2.3 Agreed next steps in preparation for the Defra “Big Room” meeting.

## **9 NERC Act 2006 House of Lords Select Committee: Natural England draft submission (NEB 73 08)**

- 9.1 Alan Law introduced the paper to consult the Board on Natural England's draft written submission to the House of Lords Select Committee and to give Board members the opportunity to offer support in giving evidence to the Select Committee on 5 December.
- 9.2 In discussion the Board
  - 9.2.1 Proposed a number of small changes to the submission mainly to emphasise and focus in on key messages.
  - 9.2.2 The Board thanked Andy Clements for volunteering to support Alan in giving evidence to the Select Committee and agreed to discuss again at the next Board meeting.

**Action: Alan Law to redraft the submission to reflect comments to meet the Defra deadline**

**Action: Board Services to schedule another slot about the Select Committee evidence at the November Board.**

## **10 Draft 25 Year Plan (NEB 73 09)**

- 10.1 The Board were invited to provide initial comments on NE's advice on the Defra 25 Year Plan.

**Action: Board members to provide further comments on the draft 25 Year Plan by email to Alan Law by Friday 15 September**

## **11. Bovine TB update (NEB 73 10)**

- 11.1 Guy Thompson introduced the paper to give Board an update on cull operations in 2017 and preparation for further applications for 2018 (and beyond). James Diamond, Director of Operations joined the meeting to answer any questions.
- 11.2 In discussion, the Board
  - 11.2.1 Noted that positive relations continue with Defra and NFU.
  - 11.2.2 Were assured that the 'quality' of the application for the eleventh area was not materially different or weaker than the other ten.
  - 11.2.3 Noted that police were active in regards to protests and other negative activity in the Cheshire area. It was noted that it was thought this heightened activity was due to the proximity of the cull area to Manchester.
  - 11.2.4 Noted that the team are in a better spirits under new leadership and feel more part of the organisation. The team are responding to health and safety issues and are using new tools and risk assessments.
  - 11.2.5 In response to a query about the effectiveness of the first two cull years, the Board were advised to exercise caution about over-interpretation of the results at this early stage and recognised that it was still too early to draw firm conclusions about the effectiveness of the policy.

## **12. Health and Safety (NEB 73 11)**

- 12.1 Guy Thompson introduced the paper to provide the Board with an overview of recent incidents and provide an update on a capability proposal for Senior Leaders in Natural England.
- 12.2 In discussion, the Board
  - 12.2.1 Welcomed the plan to bring a health and safety strategy to Board. The strategy would form the basis of the means to re-shape the health and safety Key Performance Indicator.
  - 12.2.2 Noted that the organisation's approach to risk needs to improve, particularly in the identification and management of risk.
  - 12.2.3 Agreed the near hit ratio is poor and we should be liaising with other organisations to find out why they have better results.
  - 12.2.4 The Board expressed their willingness to be involved in any awareness training so they could give consistent leadership messages.

**Action: Guy Thompson to consider how best to include Board members in Health, Safety training in the future.**

### **13 Audit and Risk Committee (NE 73 12)**

- 13.1 The Board formally noted the minutes of the June ARAC meeting and Nigel Reader advised that Joe Horwood would join Julia Aglionby and himself at the October meeting with Will Cockbain joining for the December and March meetings.
- 13.1.2 Nigel Reader also reported that the process for recruiting his successor had begun.

### **14. Remuneration Committee (NE 73 13)**

- 14.1 Noted the absence of a formal meeting in September. Nigel Reader reported that the CEO's contract had been extended for 2 years with effect from 1 September.
- 14.2 Requested that the business of the Remuneration Committee needs to be put on a more formal footing with a future cycle of meeting dates and forward look of business and that Nigel Reader will take this forward with Simon Sheppard.

### **15. Uplands Working Group (NE 73 13)**

- 15.1 Julia Aglionby introduced the paper to update the Board on the current work undertaken since the July Board meeting
- 15.2 In discussion, the Board:
  - 15.2.1 Noted the absence of a formal response to the current Infraction and that Defra are considering a review of evidence relating to burning of blanket bog and accelerating the timetable for completion of long term plans.
  - 15.2.2 Noted the progress and associated risks in respect of the long term plan for Bowland,

**Action: Guy Thompson to encourage the Area Team to progress the Bowland MoU for the remaining period with the clear expectation that a Management Plan should be the outcome of that.**

15.2.4 Acknowledged the complexity of the work and associated pressure for resources in relation to the Walshaw long term management plan.

15.2.5 Agreed to build on the relationship with Secretary of State by offering a meeting with Julia Aglionby to explain the issues in detail.

**16 Natural England Science Advisory Committee (NEB 73 14)**

16.1 Andy Clements introduced the paper which highlighted the breadth and range of recent activity led by NESAC.

16.2 In discussion, the Board

16.2.1 Noted the paper's contents and were reassured by the the advice on the re-forestation of blanket bog.

**17. Engagement Group (NEB 73 15)**

17.1 This item was deferred to the November meeting with a request to schedule it earlier in the agenda.

**Action: Board Services to reschedule Engagement Group update earlier in the November agenda.**

**18. Board Innovation Group (BIG) (NEB 73 16)**

18.1 Simon Lyster introduced the paper to inform the Board of the outcomes of the July meeting, particularly on the current work being undertaken on changes to bat licensing and the bat advice service and the different ways our work on newt licensing is being rolled out across the country.

18.2 In discussion, the Board

18.2.1 Noted the minutes of the July Board meeting, in particular the traction being gained with partners on Net Gain principles.

18.2.2 Advised that reforms on bat licensing and the bat advice service needed to progress at a rate that brought our stakeholders with us.

18.2.3 Noted that James Cross will attend the January BIG meeting.

**19. Board Diary**

19.1 The Board noted the current forward look of meetings for the rest of the year and in 2018

**18. AOB**

There was no other business

**Actions Log**

No	Agenda item/paper	Ref	Action	Owner
----	-------------------	-----	--------	-------

1	<b>Countryside Stewardship Transactions Hubs in Natural England (NEB 73 02)</b>	2.2.8	Regularly share management information on performance in transactional processing of Countryside Stewardship to keep the Board informed of progress.	Kirsty Shaw
2	<b>Countryside Stewardship Transactions Hubs in Natural England (NEB 73 02)</b>	2.2.11	Redraft the paper in the next iteration to be explicit about under which organisation Countryside Stewardship staff will sit.	Kirsty Shaw
3	<b>Proposed variation to the boundary of the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NEB 73 03)</b>	4.5.7	Confirm with all parties the undertaking of the statutory and public consultation for variation to the boundary of the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	Caroline Cotterell
4	<b>A Review of Natural England's Approach to statutory Landscape designation delivery (NEB 73 04)</b>	5.1.4	Schedule a discussion on progress on the review of Natural England's approach to statutory landscape designation delivery in January 2018	Board Secretariat
5	<b>Chief Executive's Report (NEB 73 05)</b>  Risk Register	6.1.2	Ensure revised wording of the species extinction risk on the Risk register	Alan Law
6	<b>Chief Executive's Report (NEB 73 05)</b> 2017/18 GIA Financial Performance	6.3	Provide to Chairman the expected percentage reduction in GIA predicted for 18/19	Abdul Razaq
7	<b>Chief Executive's Report (NEB 73 05)</b> Application for trial re-introduction of lynx to the Kielder Forest area.	6.4	Stand over the lynx work and keep Board Members sighted on the developments.	Alan Law
8	<b>Chief Executive's Report (NEB 73 05)</b> Enforcement regime for invasive species	6.15.2	Ensure Invasive Alien Species enforcement is logged as a risk	Alan Law
9	<b>Response to the Internal Audit Report – Review of</b>	7.1.4	Send Board the list of the delegated agri-environment	Julie Lunt

	<b>Lessons Learnt from CAP agri-environment payments 2016 EU financial year (NEB 73 06)</b>	7.1.7	scheme functions (page 4 of the presentation)  Schedule a discussion on the findings and lessons learned of the Governance Review early in 2018 (date TBC) and ensure progress reports are submitted to ARAC	Board Secretariat
		7.1.8	Refresh Board member induction to take account of governance	Board Secretariat
<b>10</b>	<b>NERC Act 2006 House of Lords Select Committee: Natural England draft submission (NEB 73 08)</b>	9.2.1	Redraft the HoL Select Committee draft submission to reflect comments to meet with Defra deadline	Alan Law
		9.2.2	Schedule a session on Select Committee evidence for November Board (TBC)	Board Secretariat
<b>11</b>	<b>Draft 25 Year Plan (NEB 73 09)</b>	10.1	Board members to provide further comments on the draft 25 Year Plan by email to Alan Law by Friday 15 September	Board Members / Alan Law
<b>12</b>	<b>Health, Safety and Wellbeing (NEB 73 11)</b>	12.2.4	Consider how best to include Board Members in Health and Safety training in the future.	Guy Thompson
<b>13</b>	<b>Uplands Working Group (NE 73 13)</b>	14.2.2	Encourage the Area Team to progress the Bowland MoU.	Guy Thompson
<b>14</b>	<b>Engagement Group (NEB 73 15)</b>	16.1	Reschedule Engagement Group update earlier in the November Board agenda.	Board Secretariat