Actions from NCC meeting 4 July 2019

Taking part were Dieter Helm (Chair), Melanie Austen, Paul Leinster, Chris Collins, Kathy Willis, Ian Bateman and Diane Coyle. Apologies were received from Colin Mayer.

Maniv Pathak, Julian Harlow, Maja Kent, Jake Harvey, Rebecca McIlhiney, Elias Scheuermann and Fjolla Morina attended from the Secretariat. Edward Barker and Rob Bradbourne attended from Defra.

1. Actions from the previous meeting and updates from the Chair

The Committee reviewed and approved actions from the May and June meetings.

Dieter provided an update on the new EU – South America trade deal and potential implications of a ‘no deal’ Brexit.

Maniv provided an update on Defra/broader government issues, including the Environment Bill, the Green Finance Strategy, the Farm to Fork review and the Economics of Biodiversity Review. Julian updated the Committee on the national natural capital atlases project. Edward provided an update on the Conservative Environment Network (CEN) manifesto.

Actions agreed:

- **Secretariat** to circulate the Green Finance Strategy document to all members. (immediate)
- **Secretariat** to organise a meeting between the NCC and Farm to Fork review team. (by 1 August)
- **Secretariat** to circulate the CEN manifesto. (immediate)
- **Mel and Kathy** to attend the Defra workshop on ‘Developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework’. (23 July)

2. Briefing note to new Secretary of State

The Committee agreed the current version of the brief prepared by the Secretariat (in case there is a new Defra Secretary of State).

**Action agreed:** Dieter to draft a letter for the new Secretary of State and circulate to all members. (by 15 July)

3. Environmental census advice

The Committee agreed that the main areas of focus in the advice would be measuring natural capital assets, integrating existing datasets and joining up this work with the national natural capital accounts.

**Action agreed:** Paul to work with Secretariat to provide an updated note. (by 12 July)
4. Metrics, census and accounting

The Committee discussed the note on terminology.

Actions agreed:

- **Secretariat** to update the note, ensuring consistency with previous NCC products. (by 12 July)
- **All members** to provide comments on the updated version of the paper. (by 19 July)
- **Ian and Kathy** to lead on finalising the paper for publication. (by 31 July)

5. Discussion on environmental net gain

The Committee discussed the current version of the environmental net gain advice produced by Paul.

Actions agreed:

- **Paul** to meet with Defra net gain officials to discuss the environmental net gain commission. (17 July)
- **Paul and Mel** to finalise the advice for sign off at 3 September meeting. (by 17 July)

6. NCC response to the first 25 YEP progress report

The Committee discussed the timeline for the 25 YEP progress report response.

Actions agreed:

- **All members** to provide comments on the paper. (by 8 July)
- **Secretariat** to circulate revised draft for further comments. (by 29 July)
- **All members** to provide comments on revised paper. (by 16 August)
- **Secretariat** to produce paper for sign off at 3 September meeting. (by 30 August)

7. International conference

Actions agreed:

- **Dieter** to review the proposal produced by Secretariat. (by 12 July)
- **Dieter** to engage with Department for International Development to discuss the international conference proposal. (by 29 July)

8. A.O.B

Chris provided an update on his discussions with Defra ELM and soils teams on 17 June.

**Action agreed:** **Ian, Kathy and Chris** to provide a short note on ELM and the public money for public goods principle. (by 10 July)

The Committee discussed the NCC’s achievements against its Terms of Reference, and identified areas where additional work is needed.
Action agreed: Colin to revise his previous note on corporate natural capital accounting. (by 27 August)