

CRT Grant Review Meeting
Wednesday 27th November 2013 14.00 – 16.00
Defra, Room 214 Nobel House

Attendees:

Sarah Hendry (Chair)

[REDACTED]

Tom Surrey (by phone) (TS)

[REDACTED]

CRT:

Philip Ridal (PR)

Tony Hales (TH)

Richard Parry (RP)

Apologies:

[REDACTED]

Nigel Johnson

Note of meeting

1. Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Nigel Johnson had sent his apologies, and would retire shortly on 13th December. Jackie Lewis would have a new title of General Counsel reporting to the CEO (resulting in one fewer member of the executive team). PR would take over as Company Secretary.

2. Actions from the last meeting

Updates were given on completed actions:

- CRT had made an announcement on Defra's payment of the £3m conditional grant in October.
- Defra had held a lunchtime seminar in September where Simon Bamford had given a presentation on CRT's work to Defra and a few other governmental staff.
- Defra had offered to set up regular policy meetings to discuss topical issues with CRT and relevant Defra colleagues. RP agreed with the idea.

ACTION RP to establish lead CRT contact and respond to Defra on policy meeting proposal.

- Amendments to the Transfer Scheme and Trust Settlement were in progress.
- The Minister had agreed and signed the amendment to the Grant Agreement. TH signed the document at the meeting and PR took it away to pass to Nigel for signature.

TH asked how the Defra team had fared in the Civil Service awards. The Chair confirmed we did not win an award but would be writing an article for the Civil Service Magazine next year. CRT said they would be happy to help with this and passed us a copy of the CRT impact report containing some useful information and quotes.

ACTION: LS to contact CRT to help with article as required (likely to be late Jan/early Feb)

3. Interim financial information

Latest management accounts and forecast

Commercially confidential information removed

Efficiencies note

Commercially confidential information removed

4. Risks

Commercially confidential information removed

5. AOB

Towpath policy

CRT presented paper CRTGR5 which was a draft policy on sharing towpaths for consultation. CRT clarified that "gongoozling" meant spectating on the waterways!

[REDACTED]

The Chair asked if there was any competition between the partnerships. RP explained they all tried to be different and to act in the local interest.

The Protector

Commercially confidential information removed

ACTION: RP to ask Nigel Johnson to consider and report to him, PR and Jackie Lewis

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

The Chair asked whether LEPs were showing any interest in CRT. RP explained a lot of it goes through Waterways Partnerships, and thought they would see in some WP plans where they were working with LEPs, but it was all very new and not well developed. This could potentially be discussed at the next meeting.

[REDACTED]

Next meeting

To take place in mid-March 2014. PR would suggest dates to ensure they tied in with other relevant CRT meetings.

ACTION: PR to suggest dates for next meeting to LS.