

Board Meeting

Wednesday 15 February 2023

Venue: Horizon House, Bristol

Board meeting: Board only session 08:00-09:00, Formal meeting 09:00-15.35

Quorum: 7 non-executive Board members

Item	Name	Time
<i>Closed Board Session</i>	Alan Lovell	08.00 60 mins
Welcome	Alan Lovell	09.00 5 mins
Celebrating Successes: New Regulatory Position Statement for Wetlands	Lucy Hunt	09.05 15 mins
1. Declarations of Interest	Alan Lovell	09.20 5 mins
2. Apologies	Alan Lovell	09.20 5 mins
3. Minutes of the Board meeting held on 7 December 2022 , and matters arising	Alan Lovell	09.20 5 mins
4. Board Updates 4.1 Chair's update 4.2 Chief Executive's update	Alan Lovell James Bevan	09.25 30 mins
5. People Matters 5.1 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Update 5.2 Employee Relations Update	Lucy Hunt	09.55 30 mins
6. E&B Executive Director: reflection on first 100 days	John Leyland	10.25 20 mins
Break		10.45 15 mins

Item	Name	Time
7. Capital Programme Strengthening	Caroline Douglass	11.00 20 mins
8. FCRM Approvals 8.1 Flood and Coastal Levies and Charges 2023/24 8.2 GiA indicative Allocation 2023/24 8.3 Approval and Assurance Thresholds	Caroline Douglass	11.20 40 mins
9. Defra Group Corporate Services Options	Lucy Hunt	12.00 60 mins
Lunch		13.00 30 mins
10. Corporate Scorecard measures 2023/24	Pat Bolster	13.30 30 mins
11. FY2023/24 Indicative Budget Allocation	Pat Bolster	14.00 20 mins
12. Regular Finance items 12.1 Finance Update 12.2 Financial Scheme of Delegation (FSoD) 12.3 Non-Financial Scheme of Delegation (NFSOD)	Pat Bolster Pat Bolster Director Legal	14.20 15 mins
Break		14.35 10 mins
13. Recent committee meeting updates 13.1 Oral Updates	Alan Lovell	14.45 10 mins
14. AOB and date of next meeting	Alan Lovell	14.55 5 mins
15. Review of meeting	Alan Lovell	15.00 5 mins
16. James Bevan: reflections on time as CEO	James Bevan	15.05 30 mins

Information papers -

1. Strategic Workforce Plan
2. Future of Water Industry Environmental Performance Assessment (EPA)
3. ARAC Risk Workshop Discussion Outcomes

Board action list

	Meeting Date	Item no and title	Lead	Progress
1	7 December 2022	Item 7.7 Future of Regulation The Board invited John Leyland to consider these inputs, as well as the work being done by his own future regulation team, and come back to the Board at the February meeting with firm proposals for the way forward.	Executive Director, Environment and Business	Complete Update to be given as part of John's reflection on his first 100 days in post item at February Board.
2	7 December 2022	Item 7.3 Future of Regulation The Board endorsed Lucy Hunt and John Leyland writing to Permitting staff to thank them for their continued hard work and to reinforce senior leadership support.	Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director of Environment and Business	In Progress
3	7 December 2022	Item 7.2 Future of Regulation The Board praised the work that had been done so far especially against the backdrop of the pandemic and recruitment difficulties. The Board noted a paper would follow in the new year to update on the current permitting situation. The Board discussed the prioritisation of applications and asked if the customer perspective could be captured in the paper due to be shared with the Board early next year.	Executive Director of Environment and Business and Chief Operating Officer	In progress Future Regulation and Future Permitting paper going to February EDT.

	Meeting Date	Item no and title	Lead	Progress
4.	12 October 2022	Item 4.2 Chair's Update The Board noted that the Modern Slavery Statement (MSS) was approved by Judith Batchelar under standing order 4.1 as business between meetings. The Board Governance team will share the link to the MSS once published on Gov.uk.	Board Governance Team	In progress Will be shared once published.
5.	12 October 2022	Item 8.3 New Government implications The Board also agreed it would be good to have a discussion on permitting at a future meeting.	Executive Director, Environment and Business	Complete Update given at December 2022 Board as part of Future of Regulation item. Update given on Permitting recovery at January 2023 informal Board call.
6.	12 October 2022	Item 10.3 Regular items, FSoD The Board discussed a potential efficiency between FCRM and E&B directorates in relation to approval to the Landscape Recovery Scheme. John Leyland and Caroline Douglass agreed to review the process.	Executive Directors of FCRM and E&B	Complete John Leyland and Caroline Douglass have agreed that John Leyland will be the signatory for the Landscape Recovery Scheme.

	Meeting Date	Item no and title	Lead	Progress
7.	12 October 2022	Item 15.2 Reflections on Ministerial discussion The Board agreed that the Environment Agency should proactively write to the Secretary of State regarding regulation. Following a similar format to the response regarding acceleration of the Capital Programme, the letter should set out what can be improved and current obstacles to acceleration.	Executive Director E&B	In progress Since the change in government the direction has changed. Further discussion to be held in February
8.	12 October 2022	Item 9A.3 Capital Programme update (Annex 1- private discussions) The Board discussed the importance of health, safety and wellbeing and asked for a RAG rating of associated risks benefits to be implemented and shared.	Executive Director FCRM	Complete Concerns related to when the previous Secretary of State was seeking to accelerate spend on the flood risk capital programme and the potential pressure this would put on our teams. Rather than accelerate spend we are working with Defra/HMT to reset our funding profile over 7 years as advised by the FCRM Committee and have done a more thorough check on deliverability for 2023/24 and through this reduced the amount Areas had originally requested. Other changes we are seeking to make will streamline processes and reduce workload.

	Meeting Date	Item no and title	Lead	Progress
9.	26 May 2022	Item 6.3 Q4 Corporate Scorecard and KPI performance for FY2021/22 The Board discussed retention issues relating to diversity, including exit interviews, and noted it would be useful to have more detailed data on this to identify where the problems are. Pat Bolster noted he would follow up on this and suggested a future deep dive session.	Chief Operating Officer	In Progress We currently lack sufficient data for a deep dive. Work is ongoing to fill this gap with help from HR data analytics colleagues and EA data protection/legal teams. By the time of the EDI annual report in May 2023, we will have the detailed data on this to gain insight.

Board Meeting

Wednesday, 15 February 2023

Item no. 4.2

Sponsor: James Bevan, Chief Executive

Title: Chief Executive's Update

Please clearly state what decision you are seeking from the meeting

The Board is asked to note the update on key topics since the last meeting.

Governance

What meetings/groups have already reviewed this item? n/a

What meetings/groups need to review this item next? n/a

Are there any risks associated with the evidence and analysis in the paper?

None

How will the key messages/decisions be communicated?

This paper will be published on GOV.uk.

Legal Services have been consulted and confirm no legal annex is required.

Legal advice provided by: Estelle Palin

1.0 Managing flood risk this winter

1.1—Environment Agency teams have been in action since the beginning of January managing the flood risk brought on by the high rainfall. Most of the action has been on and around the Severn, where Environment Agency temporary barriers successfully protected Shrewsbury, Ironbridge and Bewdley; and on the Somerset Levels, where our pumping prevented significant property flooding. Overall, we think less than 150 properties flooded nationally while over 5,000 were protected by our defences. Our automated flood warning service, set up in anticipation of industrial action, performed well overall on its first major test. We are now resting staff and preparing for what looks like a challenging February.

2.0 The East Coast floods 70th anniversary

On the night of 31 January 1953, the east coast of England was devastated by the worst flooding in living memory. 307 people died, 24,500 homes were damaged or destroyed and over 30,000 people were evacuated. The event impacted other nations, resulting in 1,836 deaths in the Netherlands, 28 in Belgium and 17 in Scotland.

We are marking the anniversary with empathy and respect, while using the occasion to demonstrate the huge advances in flood warning and flood defences since 1953, highlight the continued risk of coastal flooding and encourage people to take action to protect themselves. This includes the [flood action local pilots campaign](#), which aims to raise awareness, increase resilience and support communities in the flood risk areas of Grimsby (North East Lincolnshire) and Erewash (Derbyshire).

Research tells us that three in five people living in a high flood-risk area and who have no experience of flooding in their home do not think they are at risk. So, we are focusing on local communities who may not have a recent memory of flooding, and so are less aware and more vulnerable to flood impacts. Learnings from the pilots will inform future campaign planning with a view to expanding into more diverse, complex communities in subsequent years.

3.0 Emergency Alerts

The government's Emergency Alert System is currently due to be launched by the Cabinet Office at the end of February 2023. As the government's experts on public warning and informing for emergencies, the Environment Agency has been a core part of the cross-government project team for the last three years, with much of the thinking based on the research and experience of our Flood Warning Service and earlier Environment Agency trials using this technology.

[Emergency Alerts](#) will transmit a message to smart phones based on their location, enabling people to be contacted if their lives are at risk in an emergency. We expect to be the first organisation in the UK to use this new capability when it is launched this winter.

4.0 Drought risk

Prolonged dry weather of 2022 resulted in reduced river flows and exceptionally low reservoir levels across much of England. However, the overall risk of drought in 2023 is reducing, with overall reservoir and groundwater levels replenishing quickly following several months of above average rainfall. Localised pockets of low water reserves remain in parts of the country and three of our 14 operational areas remain in drought status: Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly; East Anglia; and Lincolnshire and

Northamptonshire.

We continue to monitor water reserves and environmental impacts whilst preparing for future droughts and working on longer term strategies to improve water supply. We are convening another meeting of the Environment Agency-chaired National Drought Group on 10 February to take stock and to continue to work together to balance water needs and manage drought impacts with the water companies and other key players.

5.0 Winter fuel resilience – fuel switching

The war in Ukraine has reduced the availability and increased the cost of natural gas. This has led National Grid PLC, the Gas System Operator (GSO), to forecast shortages in the gas network this winter. To mitigate the risk of interruption of supply for industry and public use, the GSO and BEIS have published a Demand Side Response (DSR) scheme, which invites large scale industrial gas users to voluntarily load shed, on demand, when a gas supply event is forecast, to allow the GSO to balance the supply system. Load shedding means an operator will have to turn down/cease their operations or switch to an alternative fuel, such as diesel or gas oil, for which they are financially compensated. The DSR scheme will operate on a rolling three-year basis, and so operators that bid into the scheme must commit to be able to load shed over three winters.

Operators of gas-fired combustion plant are often permitted to use alternative fuels for limited hours during on-site emergencies, such as an interruption of fuel supply; but not in other circumstances, such as participating in the DSR scheme. This is because combustion of liquid fuels results in higher emissions than natural gas. If an operator uses an alternative fuel outside of the permit conditions, they could face enforcement.

We were therefore asked by the government to put in place a Regulatory Position Statement (RPS) to give operators certainty that they would not face enforcement for fuel switching to participate in the DSR scheme. RPSs are usually put in place for circumstances of short duration, for which the environmental consequences can clearly be assessed. This is not the case for a period of three years and therefore the Environment Agency informed Defra we were not able to do this and would need a Ministerial direction to proceed.

Following this, on 13 December 2022 the Secretary of State issued [“The Environmental Protection \(England\) \(Gas Demand Side Response\) Direction 2022”](#) to the Environment Agency to temporarily require the Environment Agency to refrain from taking enforcement action against EA permit holders in England for fuel switching from gas to permitted non-gas alternative fuels, outside of normal permit conditions, during the winter periods. Defra will review the ongoing need for the Direction each winter. We have press lines in place if needed.

6.0 New Strategies and Plans

[The Natural Flood Management \(NFM\) Programme Evaluation](#) was published on 8 December 2022. This follows delivery of the £15 million NFM programme from 2017 to 2021, which was made up of 60 pilots across England. The evaluation report brings together the successes and challenges from the pilots to help those delivering NFM projects in the future. It shows the programme has delivered benefits such as: slowing and storing water upstream of 15,000 homes in areas at risk of flooding; 610 kilometres of river created or improved; 4,000 hectares of habitat created or improved; and 100 hectares of woodland planted. The learning from the evaluation has informed the actions set out in the FCERM Strategy Roadmap, which we will take forward with our partners to mainstream

NFM.

On 12 December 2022, we published [Flood Risk Management Plans \(FRMPs\)](#) for England to cover the period from 2021-2027. Alongside the plans we also published the final Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment reports. We are responsible for producing these plans in conjunction with Lead Local Flood Authorities. The plans cover flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water. The FRMPs set out over 2,000 actions to manage flood risk between 2021-2027 and the measures align with the FCERM Strategy and Roadmap.

We are continuing to coordinate FRMPs with [River Basin Management Plans \(RBMPs\)](#). Updated RBMPs were published on 22 December 2022, following approval from Defra's Secretary of State, and set out the environmental objectives for the water environment and a high-level summary of the measures needed to achieve those objectives. The plans summarise billions of pounds that will be invested in the water environment to 2027.

On 10 January 2023, the government published a [review into the implementation of schedule 3 of The Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#). The review recommends that sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) be mandatory to new developments in England. This will reduce the risk of surface water flooding, pollution and help alleviate the pressures on our traditional drainage and sewerage systems. The Environment Agency will be working closely with Defra over the next year or so as they work out the detail of how Schedule 3 will be implemented.

7.0 Storm Overflows and the Publication of Data

The Environment Agency will be publishing [online](#) the annual Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) dataset for 2022 in March 2023. [EDM](#) measures how often and for how long storm overflows are used. Since 2016, we have significantly increased the monitoring and transparency of overflow use from water companies, in part by requiring water and sewerage companies to install monitors across their networks. In 2021 12,700 monitors were installed, the equivalent of almost nine in ten storm overflows, with 15,000 EDMs due to be installed by the end of 2023.

Under the Environment Act 2021, all water companies will be required to publish near-real time EDM data on discharges from storm overflows by the end of 2025. The roll-out of this data is being led by Defra and the Environment Agency is providing technical support in the development of secondary legislation which will set out further guidance on making this data publicly available.

8.0 Environment Act targets and Environmental Improvement Plan

[Legally binding targets to protect our environment](#), clean up our air and rivers and boost nature were published on 16 December 2022 following extensive consultation as part of the government's commitment to leave the environment in a better state for future generations. The Environment Agency played a leading role in developing the targets and will play an equally important one in seeking to deliver them.

Environmental targets are a key commitment of the Environment Act 2021 and will help to deliver the government's 25 Year Environment Plan. In its [annual report on 25 Year Environment Plan progress](#), published on 19 January 2023, the Office for Environmental Protection concluded that the government's progress on delivery of its 25 year plan to

improve the environment has ‘fallen far short’ and opportunities to change course must be taken.

On 31 January 2023 the government is due to publish its Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP), of which the 25 Year Environment Plan was the first, setting out in more detail how it will achieve these targets, including interim targets and the long-term goals of the EIP. The new targets sit alongside, rather than replace, other statutory targets that drive environmental action and ambition such as those for achieving good ecological status that were set out in the Water Framework Directive and the UK target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

9.0 The marine and coastal environment

Our [‘State of the Environment and Marine Coastal report’](#) was published on 26 January. The report looks at the ecosystem services provided by coastal and marine environments globally and nationally, and the pressures they are experiencing.

10.0 Changing UK landscapes and improving biodiversity

[The ‘Solent Seascape Project’](#) which launched in November 2022 will be the first of its kind in the UK to restore a seascape scale marine habitat. Over the next five years it will provide nature-based solutions to many of the issues currently affecting the area and it will restore seagrass meadows, oyster reefs, saltmarshes and breeding seabird nesting habitats. The long-term vision is to protect and restore at least 30% of the Solent’s seascape, moving it from a degenerated state to a naturally expanding, connected and productive ecosystem. The Environment Agency, in partnership with others, has secured a £4.2 million grant from the Endangered Landscapes Programme and has played a pivotal role in developing and progressing solutions, unlocking funding streams and driving forward actions.

The Environment Agency is undertaking a pioneering restoration project on river Witham using a new technique known as [‘stage zero river reset.’](#) The project involves recreating the fragile “wet” land landscape that was lost when rivers were modified and controlled for milling and land drainage. River restoration is nothing new but a stage zero reset goes a step further than the traditional techniques. It allows the river to choose its own shape and be untidy but free and it brings multiple benefits for people and nature. This wet land acts like a sponge, encouraging water to spill out onto the floodplain during wet periods and releasing water back into the river when it’s dry, supporting wildlife and wetland habitat. It also traps nutrients and fine sediment, resulting in cleaner river water downstream. And the project will also absorb 117 tonnes of carbon emissions, meaning that it’s helping tackle both the climate and the nature emergencies.

On 29 November 2022 the work of the Environment Agency, Natural England and partners was announced as the European Riverprize winner for efforts across Cumbria to reinstate natural river processes that benefit both people and wildlife. The rivers of the Lake District have been impacted by changing patterns of farming and land management over many centuries. All the watercourses within Cumbria have at some point been modified or altered to create space for farming practices. [The Cumbrian River Restoration partnerships programme](#) has improved almost 100km of river length and restored over 150 hectares of floodplain across the catchments of the Rivers Eden, Derwent, and Kent. It has also reduced flood risk, removed plastic from rivers and boosted biodiversity in the region.

11.0 Three EA projects win BEIS funding for innovative regulation

The Environment Agency has been successful in three bids in the third round of the BEIS Regulators Pioneer Fund. The £12 million fund was established to enable regulators and local authorities to help create a regulatory environment that unleashes innovation and makes the UK the best place to start and grow a business.

Grants were awarded to:

- 10.1.1 Three Waters Regulators partnership project between the Environment Agency, the Drinking Water Inspectorate and Ofwat, which secured £680,000. This project will explore how we can share data between each other, and with the businesses and public we regulate, support, and advise.
- 10.1.2 The Environment Agency's Digital Twin Technology for Low Carbon Industrial Clusters project, which received £271,975. Digital twinning allows the creation of a digital representation of real-world places and systems. The project will use a virtual counterpart of an industrial cluster to try different combinations of technology to give insight into environmental risks to inform regulation.
- 10.1.3 The Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency's Regulatory Sandbox Pilot and Artificial Intelligence partnership project, which was awarded £170,950. Project will pilot the first use of a regulatory sandbox and use two applications of Artificial Intelligence as the test topics.

12.0 Mission Zero: Skidmore Review of Net Zero

On 13 January 2023 Chris Skidmore MP published his independent review into net zero: [Mission Zero](#). The report makes 129 recommendations, with seven key conclusions:

- 11.1.1 Net zero is creating a new era of change and opportunity.
- 11.1.2 The UK must act decisively to seize the economic opportunities and smooth the transition.
- 11.1.3 The benefits of investing in net zero today outweigh the costs.
- 11.1.4 Unlocking the ambition of places and communities will deliver the most successful version of net zero.
- 11.1.5 Net zero can materially improve people's lives – now and in 2050 – but work is needed to secure the benefits and minimise the costs.
- 11.1.6 Net zero by 2050 remains the right target for the UK – as its backed by the science, widely followed, and is creating real opportunity.
- 11.1.7 Significant additional government action is required to ensure that the UK achieves net zero in the best way possible for the economy and the public.

The Environment Agency has prepared a response to the key recommendations most likely to affect our work and will continue to work with the government on how it can advise on and implement the proposals in the report. The refreshed Net Zero Strategy is due in

March 2023. We will continue to engage with Defra and BEIS teams in advance of this.

13.0 Tackling pollution

Enforcing the rules protecting our waters is an important deterrent. [An Environment Agency prosecution in January resulted in Anglian Water](#) being fined more than half a million pounds after a string of maintenance and operational failures at Brackley Terminal pumping station in Northamptonshire allowed pollution to spill into waterways, killing wildlife in the River Great Ouse.

[Multi-national owned International Paint Ltd has been fined](#) after highly toxic banned chemical and other heavy metals entered the Site of Special Scientific Interest designated Yealm estuary in Devon in 2016. Prosecution was brought by the Environment Agency and the company was fined £650,000 and ordered to pay costs of £145,000. The company has also agreed to cover costs of remediation works, likely to be at least £500,000.

During a routine inspection of an Environment Agency permitted end-of-life vehicles recycling facility in Calverton, Nottinghamshire, our staff discovered an illegal waste site involving the storage and treatment of a significant amount of unused waste Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Pro Environmental Ltd had been receiving Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) waste in the form of excess Covid-19 PPE stock at the Calverton site since January 2022. It was estimated that there was around 5,000 tonnes stored on site, posing significant fire risks. The Environment Agency served an enforcement notice on the company requiring the removal of all the waste PPE and minimising the risk of fire. We also served a compliance notice on the separate company operating the recycling facility. A recent Environment Agency inspection confirmed that the vast majority of the PPE waste has now been removed and the remaining waste has been cleared. We are now proceeding with a criminal investigation into the offending and have engaged separately with Cabinet Office and DHSC to review DHSC's waste management contracting practices to help them ensure that waste from their activities is handled and disposed of correctly in future.

Throughout December and January the Environment Agency was working with Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service to manage a waste fire with the potential to escalate at Thompsons Recycling Ltd in Cheadle, Staffordshire. Approximately 8,000 tonnes of mixed wastes are on site. We previously served an enforcement notice preventing more waste being added to which the operator did not comply. However, the landowner has now employed registered contractors to remove and dispose of 1,600 tonnes of waste. Further phases of work are also planned and activities will continue for several weeks. Our focus will be on duty of care regarding disposal of the waste and monitoring the environment.

14.0 Fighting waste crime: Environment Agency featured on BBC

A new series of the BBC's TV programme *Defenders* started on 25 January, featuring Environment Agency staff tackling waste crime. It includes the prosecution of a fly-tipper in Wiltshire spotted by an MOD helicopter; the conviction of two men in Buckinghamshire for storing and burning large amounts of illegal waste at their farm (with one jailed for eight months); and an active Environment Agency waste crime investigation in the London area which highlights almost two dozen successful prosecutions so far.

15.0 Persistent Organic Pollutants and domestic seating

Flame retardants have been designated as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) by the Stockholm convention. This international environmental treaty aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of POPs. The Environment Agency enforces these controls in England, including in new products and wastes.

In 2020 we undertook an investigation which confirmed the widespread presence of very large quantities of POPs and other hazardous chemicals in domestic seating (sofas). UK waste seating is the largest reservoir of these chemicals in Europe. We are currently tackling the illegal disposal of waste domestic seating containing POPs. Waste containing POPs must be incinerated and must not be re-used, recycled, or landfilled to prevent lasting environmental harm and impacts on the food chain. This is not a new obligation and alongside Defra we have engaged with local authorities, waste industry, manufacturers and charity representatives since 2021. Our first intervention was issuing advice in August 2022 and requesting responses by 31 December 2022.

This approach has successfully driven compliance, with many landfills stopping illegal disposal of this waste. However, local authorities are understandably concerned at the significant costs of adopting compliant waste disposal processes. Defra is working with Treasury to consider if any support can be provided. We continue to take a supportive approach to local authorities and others who responded positively to our August letter and are working hard to comply. We will move towards more formal compliance measures later in the year.

16.0 Rod license increase: Ministerial Approval

On 24 January 2023 the Environment Agency publishes its [21/22 fisheries annual report](#) revealing how nearly £22 million in rod licence income has been spent to enhance and protect England's fisheries.

The Minister has approved our new fishing licence duties to commence on 1 April 2023. The duties will rise incrementally over three years to lessen the impact on our customers. The new licence structure is based on market research of our customers' 'willingness to pay' and reflects the need to uphold and where possible improve the operational side of the fisheries service and deliver on our statutory duties. Key angling partners fully supported and contributed to the work on delivering this increase. With the additional income raised from the change in licence duties we will look to invest in areas that have customer facing benefits.

17.0 Carbon Trust Golden Accreditation

Carbon Literacy is an accredited status acquired through training from the Carbon Literacy Trust focussed on creating a positive shift in how mankind lives, works and behaves in response to climate change. The Environment Agency is taking part in the Carbon Literacy training and is one of only 17 organisations in the world to be accredited as 'Gold' by the Trust, meaning 5,000 of our staff have been certified, 10% of the 50,000 people that the Trust has certified in total. We are also the first government body to reach this level.

18.0 New Year 2023 Honours

Claire Bell has been made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to gender equality in the workplace. Claire's ground-breaking work and involvement with the Environment Agency's Women's Network, including two years as network lead, has driven real milestone achievements in gender equality across the public sector.

James Bevan
Chief Executive
February 2023

Sponsor: Board Governance Team

Title: Board Committee Meetings update

Please clearly state what decision you are seeking from the meeting

The Board is asked to:

1. Note the substantive agenda items discussed at Environment and Business Committee, Flood and Coastal Risk Management Committee, People and Pay Committee, Pensions Committee and Audit and Risk Assurance Committee since December 2022.

Key points for discussion

Committee Chairs will be asked to highlight particular areas of note for the Board.

Governance

What meetings/groups have already reviewed this item? n/a

What meetings/groups need to review this item next? n/a

Are there any risks associated with the evidence and analysis in the paper?

No

How will the key messages/decisions be communicated?

Through an oral update during the Board meeting.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This paper provides a summary of substantive agenda items that have been discussed at Committee meetings since the full Board meeting on 7 December 2022.

2.0 Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) Committee

- 2.1 The FCRM Committee met on 30 January 2023.

Substantive items discussed were:

- Capital Programme – Strengthening Delivery Approvals
- Coastal Strategy
- FCRM grant-in-aid (GiA) Allocations

3.0 Environment and Business (E&B) Committee

- 3.1 The Environment and Business Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

4.0 People and Pay Committee

- 4.1 The People and Pay Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

5.0 Pensions Committee and Pensions Board

- 5.1 The Investment Sub-Committee (ISC) has not met since the last Board meeting.

- 5.2 The Pensions Committee met on 8 December 2022

Substantive items discussed were:

- Audit Strategy
- Actuarial valuation
- Administration and Communication
- Investment Strategy

6.0 Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

- 6.1 The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) met on 14 December 2022

Substantive items discussed were:

- Update on hot topics including: IT risks and cyber security, Corporate Services update, SSCL and Pensions and Employee Relations.
- Sustainability Report
- Internal audit
- Asset Management Overview
- 6-month country fraud and anti-money laundering report
- Value for money update

- 6.2 The ARAC met on 31 January 2023 for a risk workshop focussed on how the Environment Agency should use material issues to inform the identification and management of risk.

Board Governance Team

February 2023