

economic areas, and local communities, will benefit from the Environment Agency's work in terms of supporting the government's agenda on growth.

- 2.3 The importance of ensuring that IT systems were funded appropriately to improved efficiency was also emphasised.
- 2.4 The board agreed the spending review position statement subject to minor amendments as discussed.

Item 3: Update on business plan 2025/26

- 3.1 The board noted that the business plan for 2025/26 was currently being finalised following the board's steer at the March board meeting, and that the final document will be shared with board members by correspondence ahead of its launch on the 23 April 2025.

Item 4: Approval of changes to board member roles and responsibilities

Board Committee Chairs and members

- 4.1 The Chair advised the board of Ines Faden's designation at Deputy Chair by the Secretary of State from 1 April 2025 for a period three months, and for the remainder of her appointment following approval by No.10 which was expected shortly.
- 4.2 **Decision: The board approved** the appointment of new board member Jon Watts as the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) Chair from 1 April 2025.
- 4.3 **Decision: The board approved** the appointment of Stewart Davies as the Environment and Business Committee Chair from 1 April 2025.
- 4.4 **Decision: The board approved** the appointment of Mark Suthern as the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Committee (FCRM) Chair from 1 April 2025.
- 4.5 **Decision: The board approved** the appointment of Lilli Matson as the Pensions Committee Chair from 1 April 2025.
- 4.6 **Decision: The board approved** the appointment of Ines Faden da Silva as the Chair of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) Chairs meetings from 1 April 2025.
- 4.7 **Decision: The board approved** the membership of the Committees from the 1 April 2025 as follows:

Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

Jon Watts (Chair)
Stewart Davies
Ines Faden da Silva
Maya Leibman
Mark Suthern

Environment and Business Committee

Stewart Davies (Chair)
Brittany Harris
Sarah Mukherjee
Mark Suthern
Jon Watts

Flood and Coastal Risk Management Committee

Mark Suthern (Chair)
Ines Faden da Silva
Maya Leibman
Lilli Matson

People and Pay Committee

Alan Lovell (Chair)
Stewart Davies
Lilli Matson
Sarah Mukherjee

Pensions Committee (Board membership)

Lilli Matson (Chair)
Ines Faden da Silva
Maya Leibman
Jon Watts

Investment Sub- Committee changes

- 4.8 The board welcomed Craig Martin to the meeting.
- 4.9 The Chair of the Pensions Committee introduced the paper and outlined the proposals to remove the Investment Sub Committee as a sub-committee of the Environment Agency board.
- 4.10 The board noted that whilst the committee will be removed from the governance structure, the governance and oversight for pensions investment will remain.
- 4.10 **Decision: The board approved** the Pension Committee recommendation that the Pension Fund Investment Sub Committee (ISC) be removed as a formal board Sub-Committee to become an “Investment Oversight Group” of Pensions Committee, chaired by the Chief Pensions Officer.
- 4.11 The board discussed the future board member recruitment and noted that the Defra Director General of Floods and Water would be following this up in order to ensure new board members were appointed in good time before existing board member terms come to an end.

Item 5: Non-financial scheme of delegation (NFSOD) changes

- 5.1 The Director of Legal and Audit Services presented the paper which outlines the need to provide officers with new powers in relation to the Clean Heat Market Mechanism Regulations as a result of new legislation introduced to incentivise the heating appliance industry to move away from fossil fuel boilers to heat pumps.
- 5.2 **Decision: The board approved** the proposed amendments to the Non-Financial Scheme of Delegation (NFSOD) (version 60, January 2025) to deal with new powers relating to the Clean Heat Market Mechanism Regulations 2025 (CHMM).

Item 6: AOB

- 6.1 The Chair updated the board that he will not be renewing his term as Chair of the Environment Agency, although his term will be extended to the end of 2025.

Meeting closed at 11:45am.