

Minutes of the board meeting held on Wednesday 8 April 2026 via MS Teams

Attending

Alan Lovell	Chair
Ines Faden Da Silva	Deputy Chair
Brittany Harris	Board Member
Maya Leibman	Board Member
Lilli Matson	Board Member
Sarah Mukherjee	Board Member
Mark Suthern	Board Member
Jon Watts	Board Member

In attendance

Philip Duffy	Chief Executive
Tamara Bruck	Executive Director, Strategy Transformation and Assurance
Sarah Chare	Executive Director, Local Operations
Chris Davis	Deputy Director, Communications
Caroline Douglass	Executive Director, Flood and Coastal Risk Management
David Hill	Defra Director General, Strategy and Water
John Leyland	Executive Director, Environment and Business
Alice Mayne	Director, Strategy
Laura Milton	Director, Legal and Audit Services
Kathryn Tagliani	Board and Executive Governance Senior Advisor
Derry Gallagher	Board and Executive Governance Advisor

Item 2

Livio Zellweger	Deputy Director, Strategy
Chris Paul	Deputy Director, Strategy Performance and Planning

Apologies

Stewart Davies	Board Member
Clare Jeffreys	Finance Director
Verity Zurita	Deputy Director, Governance and Engagement
Corry McDiarmid	Manager, Board and Executive Governance Office

Item 1: Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were noted from Stewart Davies, Clare Jeffreys, Verity Zurita and Corry McDiarmid.

Declarations of interest

- 1.2 There were no Declarations of Interest made.

Item 2: 2026/2027 Environment Agency Business Plan

- 2.1 Chris Paul and Livio Zellweger joined the meeting.
- 2.2 The board discussed the draft 2026/27 Environment Agency Business Plan, its role in setting out priorities for the year ahead, and its alignment with EA2030. The board welcomed the concise nature of the document and noted its suitability as a forward-looking summary.
- 2.3 The board discussed and confirmed the importance of maintaining a clear and consistent narrative suitable for its audience, including staff, government, and external stakeholders.
- 2.4 The board noted the value of clearly articulating priorities and areas of focus, while ensuring that the tone and language support transparency and confidence in delivery. The board also reflected on the need to acknowledge the scale and complexity of the organisation's remit, while clearly setting out priorities for the year ahead.
- 2.5 The board discussed the presentation of priorities, outcomes, and impacts, noting the importance of clearly setting out the organisation's contribution at local and regional levels and how priority work supports outcomes for communities, partners, and the environment.
- 2.6 The board discussed the value, where appropriate, of signposting longer-term work, particularly for major programmes, while maintaining a clear focus on delivery in the coming year.
- 2.7 The board discussed the inclusion of targets and performance information and noted the importance of presenting key figures clearly and, where appropriate, with supporting context.
- 2.8 **Action:** Deputy Director, Strategy Performance and Planning and Deputy Director, Strategy to consider the inclusion of key figures, trends, and graphical representations, where appropriate, to support audience understanding.

- 2.9 The board considered how the document reflects the organisation's approach to efficiency and noted the importance of presenting this proportionately and in a way that supports confidence in the organisation's ability to deliver its objectives.
- 2.10 The board noted that the draft Business Plan aligns with guidance from the Secretary of State and is expected to serve as a useful reference document for staff and external stakeholders.
- 2.11 The board noted that final refinements would be completed ahead of an internal staff launch later in April, followed by publication on gov.uk.
- 2.12 **Action:** Deputy Director, Communications and Engagement, to consider the internal and external communications approach regarding recognising performance throughout 2025/26.

Item 3: AOB

- 3.1 No other business was raised.

The meeting closed at 10:52.