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## **JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

### **FMPR - UPDATE ON PROGRESS MADE AND OUTLINE ACTION PLAN**

#### **Paper by Keith Little FMPR Project Co-ordinator**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress being made towards identifying and recommending a proposal for an organisational framework for the JNCC, which helps meet the agreed objectives arising from the FMPR review.

#### **2. Next steps**

- 2.1 A further meeting between Deryck Steer, Malcolm Vincent and the support unit's legal advisers took place on 7 February 2002. The advice the Support Unit is receiving regarding a future organisational framework, continues to suggest that the two currently favoured options, ie a company limited by guarantee, or similar "government " model continue to be worth pursuing. A meeting has been subsequently held with DEFRA sponsor branch to ensure that they, in parallel, seek legal advice from their advisers, and that together a process is agreed for bringing together the advice both parties are receiving, in order to reach a conclusion and recommend a way forward. We are anticipating a response from DEFRA by mid-April.
- 2.2 JNCC's legal advisers have rightly made the point that any proposed scheme will only be viable if the Secretary of State approves it, and such approval represents a key milestone in our future planning.
- 2.3 There is a possibility that recent legislation in the form of The Regulatory Reform Act (2001) may help to make any necessary legislative change more straightforward, and the scope for this will be fully considered in any recommendations made.

#### **3. Action Plan**

- 3.1 The following pages set out an outline action plan for the FMPR implementation. At this stage the timescales should be regarded as illustrative.
- 3.2 Timetables will very much depend on how quickly we can reach a decision to approve a new organisational framework, and how long it might take to put in place any necessary legislation arising from that decision.

**4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 Committee members are asked to **note** progress made and the outline action plan, and to **comment** on points raised.

## CONTENTS

1. Key points
2. Summary of milestones
3. Diagram of current corporate framework, indicating issues to consider regarding any organisational change
4. Models for the future organisational framework options:
  - i. Company Limited by Guarantee
  - ii. Other incorporated public sector model
5. Outline Project plan (Gantt chart)

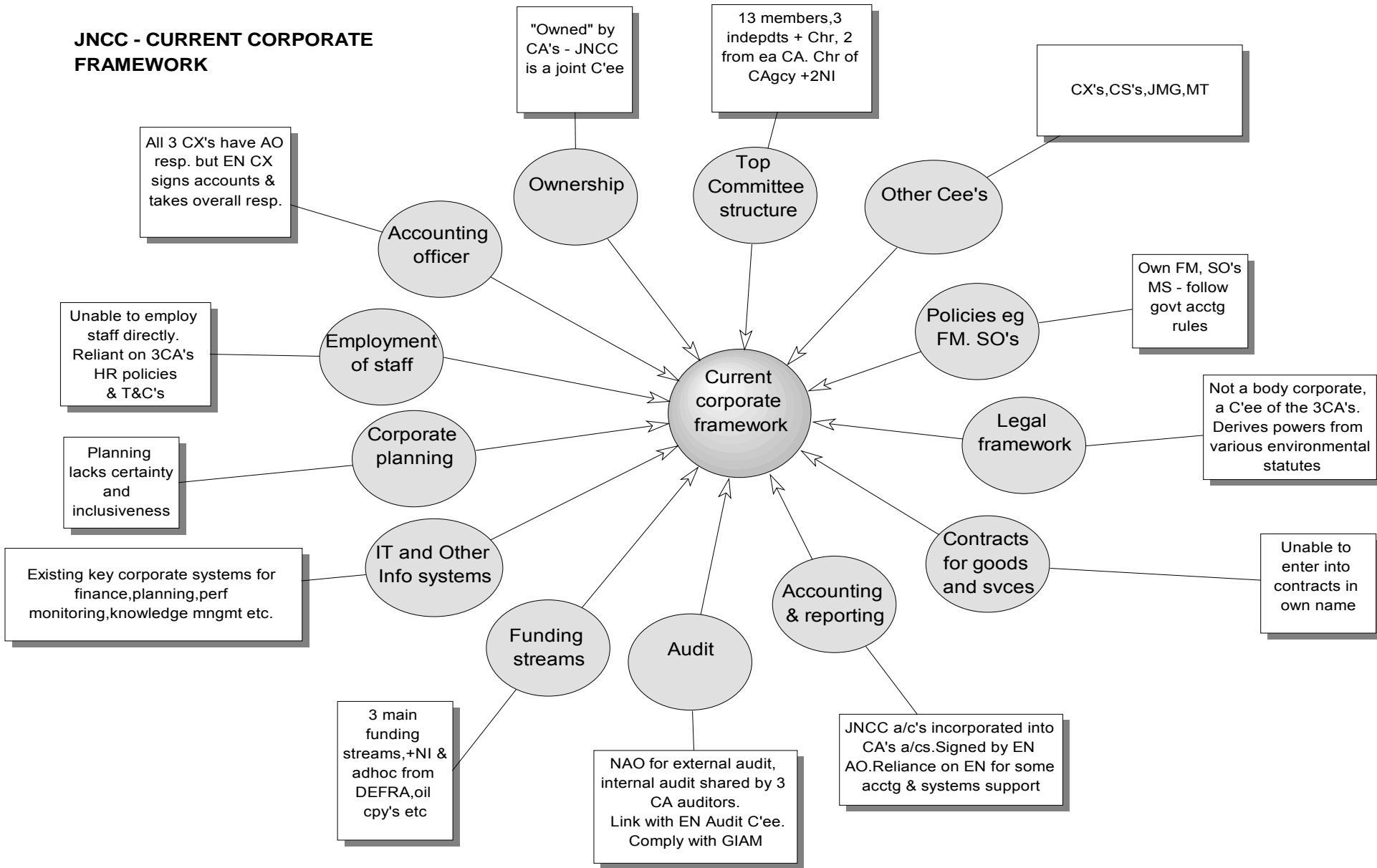
## KEY POINTS

- i. Natural milestones include the scheduled JNCC meetings, and FMPR Steering Group meetings, and the outline plan has been built around these and other obvious points on the calendar. It would make good sense to schedule future Steering Group meetings to follow about three weeks behind the JNCC meetings in June, September, December and March.
- ii. A key milestone will be the Secretary of State's approval, or otherwise, of the recommendation from the Steering Group for a preferred organisational framework. Some of the detailed planning is not feasible until that decision is made.
- iii. An optimum time for the start of a new organisational framework is the beginning of a new financial year. It may be possible to work towards an April 2003 start date, but already this timeframe looks to be extremely tight. A mid-year start date may be possible, but would add to an already significant workload.
- iv. The greatest workload volume looks likely to be the harmonisation of staff terms and conditions, and the consequent policy, contractual and payroll processing issues arising therefrom.
- v. the following two pages, showing milestones and the current corporate framework, helped in the preparation of the draft action plan (Gantt chart) shown on the final pages.
- vi. Pages 8 and 9 are organisational models for the two options under consideration, i.e. the Company Limited by Guarantee model, and the other incorporated public sector model.
- vii. The attached draft action plan should be regarded as illustrative only at this stage. it is too early to say, with certainty, that all necessary task could be completed in time for April 2003.

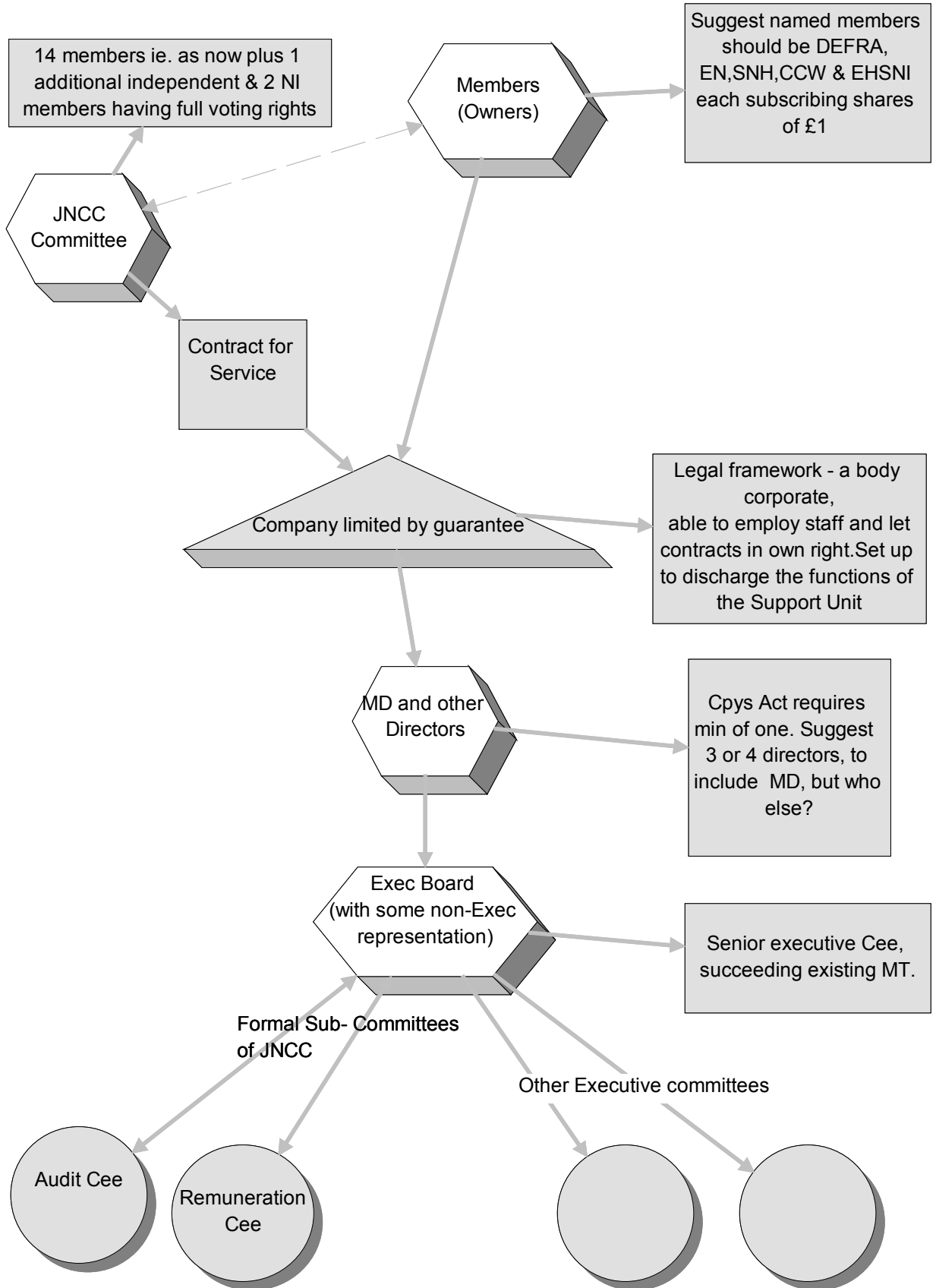
## KEY FMPR MILESTONES

MAJOR MILESTONE	DATE
• REGULAR OPEN MEETINGS TO BRIEF STAFF	Scheduled for Feb, April, July, Oct & Dec
• MARCH JNCC MTG	March 02
• NEXT STEERING GROUP (Agreed)	29 April 02
• PROPOSE WHICH ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK TO PURSUE	April 02?
• MINISTER'S DECISION FOLLOWING STEERING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS.	May 02?
• NEXT JNCC – APPROVE UPDATED STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTION & MISSION STATEMENT	June 02?
• NEXT & FUTURE STEERING GROUP MEETINGS (Not yet agreed)?	Next one (say) June & thereafter? August 02?
• NEW CHAIR ARRIVES	
• SEPTEMBER JNCC MEETING (A KEY ONE)	Sept 02
• AGREE AND SIGN OFF PRODUCTS (ie papers on):	All done by Dec 02? Some will need completion before .
• Organisation and Committee structures/ Legal framework	
• Harmonisation of Staff T&C's	
• Policy – new policy or adaptation	
• Accountabilities	
• Funding mechanism and process	
• Accounting and audit arrangements	
• Corporate system changes and enhancements	
• Communications plan (external and internal)	
• DECEMBER JNCC MEETING	Dec 02
• FINAL ADMIN TASKS RE SETTING UP NEW ORGANISATION	Jan 03
• MARCH JNCC MEETING	March 03
• LAUNCH OF NEW ORGANISATION	April 03?
• BEGINNING OF NEW FINANCIAL YEAR	April 03

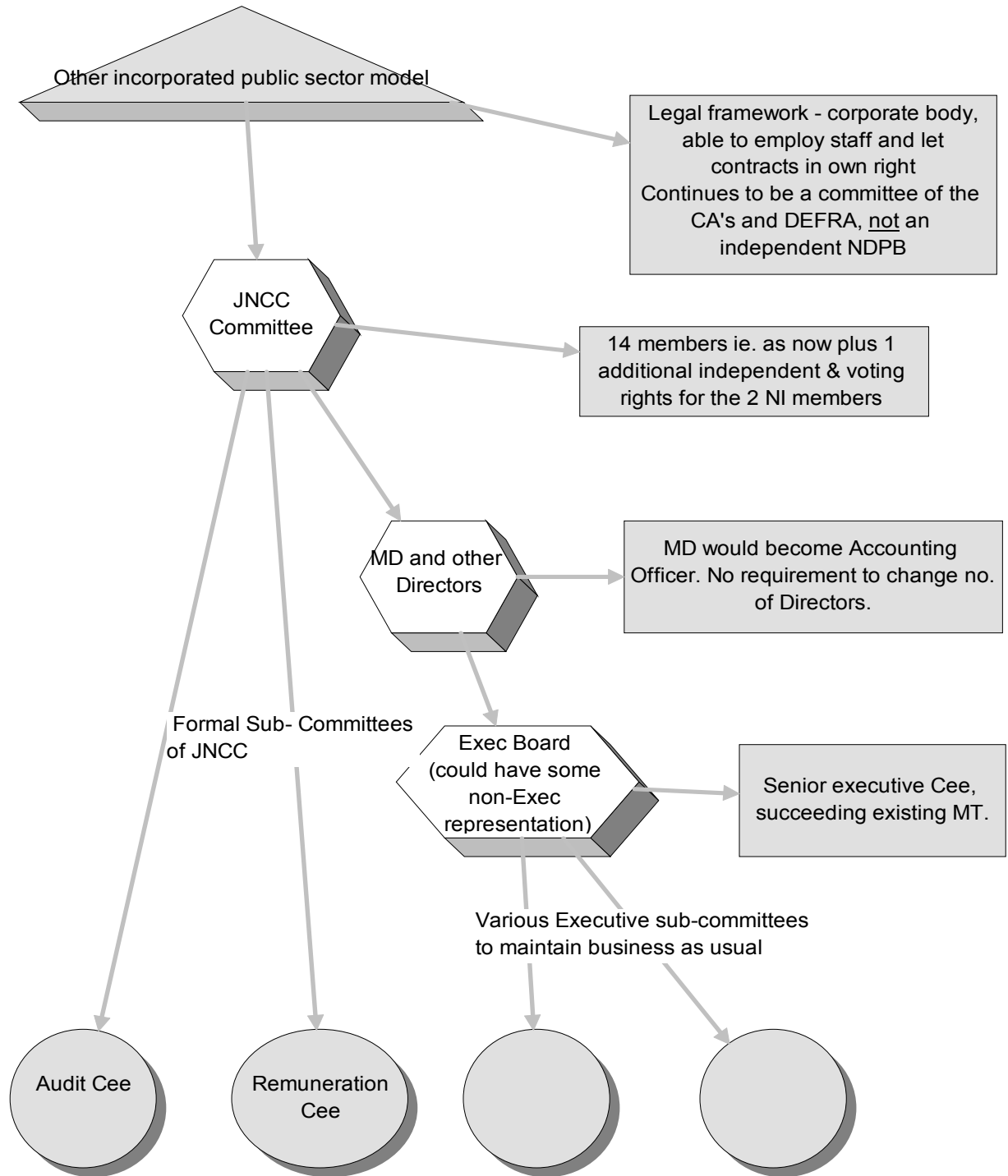
**JNCC - CURRENT CORPORATE FRAMEWORK**



## JNCC - COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE MODEL



## JNCC - OTHER INCORPORATED PUBLIC SECTOR MODEL



## JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – SUPPORT UNIT

### FMPR OUTLINE ACTION PLAN

