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CONFIRMED CONFIDENTIAL ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES OF THE EIGHTY THIRD MEETING OF THE JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2009 AT MONKSTONE HOUSE, CITY ROAD, PETERBOROUGH, PE1 1JY.

This paper was provided to the Joint Committee for decision/discussion or information.
Please refer to the minutes of the meeting for Committee's position on the paper.

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JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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Decision papers

12. JNCC priorities and funding for 2010/11 (JNCC 09 P18)

12.1 Mrs McQueen introduced the paper which set out proposals for developing the 2010/11 Business Plan and the funding assumptions underpinning it. Demands for advice and other services remain high against an anticipated cut in the reserved and UK co-ordination funding streams of 2.5%. Mrs McQueen emphasised that this represented a significant challenge as short-term flexibility is limited to small areas of expenditure. She explained that proposals would be taken to the JNCC Sponsors Group meeting on 8th October for discussion. The proposals were still being refined and some alterations had been made since the paper was issued as follows:

- i) an alternative to reducing marine mapping work has been identified since the paper was circulated and it is now proposed that this area of work be maintained. This would be achieved by funding the variable overhead costs associated with new marine work programmes from the appropriate source;
- ii) efficiency savings would be sought in the European programme to enable the European intelligence contract to be maintained

12.2 In discussion the following points were raised:

- i) whilst the Business Plan, as presented, is for one year only, some thoughts about 2011-12 should be included to give an indication of the longer term direction;
- ii) it was acknowledged that long-term commitments reduced flexibility, and a re-arrangement of the business model for future years might offer greater flexibility; and
- iii) whilst unavoidable given anticipated resources, there was some discomfort that publication of the remaining Geological Conservation Review (GCR) volumes would be stopped, after four more have been published this year. It was confirmed that the GCR information needed by country conservation bodies was already available to them. The decision to cease publication would need to be managed carefully with authors. Professor Warren agreed to discuss with the British

Geological Survey whether external funding might be available for publishing the remaining volumes. Similarly, Professor Usher agreed to explore the possibility of an academic publisher funding this work. Despite the decision to cease this particular geological work, Joint Committee remained committed to geological conservation and its place in the work of the JNCC.

- 12.3 The Joint Committee **noted** the funding issues that needed to be taken into account in developing the Business Plan, **endorsed** the priorities for, and adjustments to, the work programme, and **noted** the process for taking forward this work.