



**REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

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.

To view other Joint Committee papers and minutes visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2671>

To find out more about JNCC visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1729>

## **JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

#### **Paper by Marcus Yeo**

1. Since the last report to the Joint Committee, the Executive Management Board (EMB) has met four times: on 10 December, 13 January, 10 February and 10 March. Minutes of the meeting are available on request.
2. The main items discussed by EMB and other significant issues relating to the Committee's reserved matters which are not covered by other Committee papers are summarised below. A corresponding report has been made to the company board on relevant matters.
3. Directors and Committee members have undertaken a series of meetings with senior officials in Defra, the devolved administrations and other Whitehall departments and Board/Council members in CNCC and the country conservation bodies. The vast majority of stakeholders have expressed satisfaction with the work JNCC is doing and our working relationships. However, meetings have reinforced the need for more dialogue, identified through the Committee self-assessment in December, to improve understanding of JNCC's current and future contribution to government priorities. EMB will continue to maintain and enhance relationships, and proposals have been developed to increase Committee's engagement with stakeholders
4. Two partnership agreements have been concluded.
  - i. JNCC will work with Cefas on components of the marine monitoring and surveillance programme. Mutual benefits include sharing expertise, efficient use of Cefas' research vessel, and closer alignment of programmes.
  - ii. We have also entered into a new agreement with BTO for a joint programme of bird and environmental monitoring. This will provide information on the status of birds across the UK, and evidence of human-induced and environmental factors which are driving change. The agreement relies heavily on BTO's access to highly skilled volunteers, and provides excellent value for money.
5. Following an options exercise, a business case was submitted to Defra for JNCC's headquarters accommodation to remain in central Peterborough after March 2011 when the current lease expires, and to explore three options for future accommodation. The timing of the submission should allow a decision to be made before purdah to allow negotiations and implementation to be completed before the end of the current lease. In order to meet mandatory space utilisation standards set by HM Treasury a substantial investment would be required in 2010/11. The costs could not be found from JNCC's existing budget without severe consequences for JNCC's

work plan and no investment grants are available. The Executive Management Board will take all the action it can to avoid these costs.

6. In collaboration with five Overseas Territories, an application has been made to DG Environment's 'Thematic programme for environment and sustainable management of natural resources' (ENRTP), for €1.65 million over three years. The money would be used to support five projects dealing with invasive non-native species across these Territories, with JNCC providing overall project oversight and financial control.