



## **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 9 June, 7 and 15 July, and 11 August. Minutes of the meetings 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. EMB's activities over the last three months have been focused on responding to initiatives of the Westminster coalition government. In particular, considerable effort has been directed to preparing for the 2011-15 Spending Review, implementing new spending restrictions, and managing an in-year budget reduction. Details are provided in paper JNCC 10 D10, which is on the agenda for the September Committee meeting.
4. Part of the Spending Review process has involved discussions between Defra, the devolved administrations and JNCC regarding the amount of 'UK co-ordination' funding to be provided to JNCC from 2011/12. It is clear that all the administrations are planning to make significant cuts to JNCC's funding over the Spending Review period but there is no agreement yet on the scale of the cuts. Further discussion will take place at a meeting of the JNCC's sponsors' group on 27 September, and an oral update will be provided to Committee on 29 September.
5. Defra has confirmed that JNCC can honour the second year of the current two-year pay deal (i.e. covering the period August 2010 to July 2011). However, it is anticipated that a complete pay freeze will be implemented from August 2011.
6. On 12 July, the Chair and Managing Director had a very positive initial meeting with Richard Benyon, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Natural Environment and Fisheries in Defra. A second meeting is scheduled for January 2011.
7. Defra initiated consultation on a Natural Environment White Paper in July. The White Paper is focused on the natural environment in England, but there are some elements relevant to JNCC, notably marine and international, and we are discussing with Defra how we can contribute to these. JNCC staff are also advising on relevant parts of similar devolved initiatives, e.g. the Welsh Natural Environment Framework.
8. The temporary appointments of Paul Rose (as Director of Science) and Vin Fleming (as Head of European and Global Advice) have been extended to March 2011. It is intended to review the JNCC support company's senior management structure early in 2011, when the implications of the Spending Review will be known.

9. A proposal for future Peterborough office accommodation is provided in a confidential note with this report.