



The one hundred and ninth meeting of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to be held at 09.10 on 1 December 2016, at the David Attenborough Building, Pembroke St, Cambridge CB2 3QY

This paper is 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

Chief Executive's report on topical issues

Paper by Marcus Yeo

1. Overview

- 1.1. The relatively short period since the last Committee meeting on 22 September has been as busy as the rest of the year. Important developments have included:
 - i. publication of the report from the government review of JNCC and subsequent preparation of an implementation plan (see paper JNCC 16 44);
 - ii. drafting of a revised JNCC strategy, following discussion at the September Committee meeting, which is informing business planning for 2017/18 (see paper JNCC 16 39);
 - iii. increasing engagement with work on the UK's exit from the EU (see paper JNCC 16 42).
- 1.2. Despite many pressures, delivery of JNCC's 2016/17 work programme is generally satisfactory (as reported in paper JNCC 16 43).

2. JNCC sponsorship and governance

- 2.1 The Defra lead for sponsorship of JNCC has sat within Defra's transformation programme for the last year. Now the JNCC review has concluded, Defra have decided that sponsorship will pass back to the Natural Environment Directorate. This will bring sponsorship closer to relevant policy functions.
- 2.2 JNCC's current governance documents (Accountability Statement, Management Statement and Financial Memorandum) have been in place since 2011 and are currently being reviewed. This provides an opportunity to address some important issues around the relationship between JNCC and sponsor administrations, as raised in the recent review.

3. Ministerial meetings

- 3.1 The JNCC Chair and Chief Executive will be meeting the Defra minister, Thérèse Coffey, on 6 December.
- 3.2 Meetings with devolved environment ministers will be arranged in early 2017.