



JNCC SUPPORT CO. BOARD

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

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Paper by Marcus Yeo

1. Since the last report to the company board, the Executive Management Board (EMB) has met three times on 12 March, 8 April and 14 May. Minutes of the meetings are available on request.
2. The main items discussed by EMB and other significant issues relating to the running of the company are summarised below. Additionally, as agreed by Committee at its last meeting as part of the new corporate governance arrangements, EMB has provided a report to the Joint Committee on matters relating to those issues reserved for Committee decision.
3. EMB carefully monitored progress against key performance indicators and the financial position during the last quarter. The results, which represent an excellent overall performance, are reported to the Board in paper BD 09 P05.
4. EMB agreed a revised programme structure for JNCC's marine work which takes account of the substantial recent growth in this work. The draft business plan for 2009/10 was restructured to reflect this before being submitted to ministers. Budgets and staffing allocations to the projects under each programme have been finalised. EMB has also agreed a list of high-risk/high-cost projects and associated controls to manage the risks. Directors will be directly involved in monitoring these projects.
5. Following revised delegations to EMB from the Board in March, a new schedule of delegations from EMB to staff has been put in place.
6. EMB discussed JNCC's potential involvement in an EU Interreg-funded project: Marine Protected Areas in the Atlantic Arc (MAIA). The project would engage stakeholders to secure support for marine protected areas in UK offshore waters, and would involve partner organisations from France, Portugal and Spain. EMB agreed, in principle, that JNCC should participate in this project, following clarification of certain financial and other issues. In particular, because this project would be funded by the EU and is outwith the draft business plan for 2009/10 it will require Defra approval.
7. The Project Initiation Document for the joint JNCC-NE Marine Conservation Zone project was endorsed, subject to outstanding governance arrangements being finalised satisfactorily.
8. The business case for relocation of JNCC's Aberdeen office to shared accommodation with SNH and SEPA was endorsed and submitted to Defra for approval. This was

based on the advice that no rent or capital charge would be made. However, subsequently Scottish Government decided that a capital charge of £70k per annum should be made and accordingly EMB will be re-assessing the revised business case at its meeting on 10 June.

9. EMB endorsed proposals for a review of JNCC's corporate identity. The review will cover the full range of communications media and products and look at all aspects of JNCC's corporate identity other than the organisation's name. The work will be undertaken by a small project team, who will develop proposals for sign-off by EMB and/or chairman.