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JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

LEAD AGENCY AND LEAD CO-ORDINATION NETWORKS SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

Paper by Wyn Jones, Head of Habitats

1. Update.

- 1.1 With the change in status of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to a company limited by guarantee, it will be necessary to formalise the arrangement by which the new company is supported by the agencies in undertaking the special functions.
- 1.2 The support is provided by means of lead agencies, where a discrete area of work or project is delegated to an agency following a decision by the Committee; or by means a Lead Co-ordination Network (LCN), where a network, led by one of the agencies or the JNCC support unit, provides support to the JNCC in undertaking the special functions. Again LCNs are established following decisions by the Committee. The lead agencies and LCNs are listed in Annex 1.
- 1.3 The formalisation of the arrangements by which the agencies support the JNCC in undertaking the special functions is by means of service level agreements. These have been drafted on a cost neutral basis although the additional cost of VAT will be incurred for each agreement. Each of the lead agencies and LCNs will the subject of separate service level agreement with the relevant agencies.
- 1.4 Drafts of the service level agreements have been produced and meetings with the relevant agencies will held in the coming weeks. It is expected that agreement will be reached by the end of March enabling signing by the relevant agencies and the new company in early April.

ANNEX 1

Lead agencies

Biotechnology/GMOs - English Nature (JNCC 98 P17)

Toxic chemicals/pesticides - English Nature (JNCC 94 P14)

Lead co-ordination networks (LCNs)

Air pollution – Countryside Council for Wales (JNCC 99 P16)

Freshwater – Scottish Natural Heritage (JNCC 00 P24)

Grassland – Countryside Council for Wales (JNCC 00 P30)

Lowland heathland – English Nature (JNCC 04 P07)

Lowland wetland – English Nature (JNCC 00 P30)

Soils – Scottish Natural Heritage (JNCC 02 P14)

Upland – Scottish Natural Heritage (JNCC 00 P24)

Woodland – English Nature (JNCC 00 P30)

Coastal - JNCC (JNCC 00 P30)