

Natural Resources Wales

Board Meeting

27 February 2013

Paper Title	Draft Framework Document and Remit Letter
Paper Reference:	Paper 1 (02/13)
Paper Prepared By:	Laura Fudge, Department of Environment and Sustainable Development, Welsh Government

Purpose of Paper:	Discussion
Recommendation:	To discuss the draft Framework Document and Remit Letter
Decision Required:	Not applicable

Impact: To note – all headings might not be applicable to the topic	Impact on the Environment: Impact on the Economy: Impact on Community: Impact on Knowledge:
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Issue

1. To seek the Board's views on the content of: the draft 2013/14 Remit letter for Natural Resources Wales (NRW); and, the draft Framework Document.

Background

2. The draft Remit Letter and the draft Framework Document have been developed by Department for Environment and Sustainable Development (DESD) in consultation with the Living Wales Programme staff and Emyr Roberts.
3. The draft Remit Letter (at Doc 1). sets out the strategic agenda for NRW beyond its statutory functions. The Remit Letter also highlights the importance of the Welsh Government and NRW working towards a common purpose. The Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development expects NRW to maintain business continuity; deliver effective enforcement and pre-emptive action where there are emerging risks, respond to incidents and meet your European and domestic statutory obligations. Annex 1 of the letter identifies the Welsh Government's priorities for early action.
4. NRW will have principal responsibility for delivering the benefits defined in the Business Case for creation of a Single Environment Body in Wales, and NRW is being asked to ensure that a clear efficiency and benefits plan is an integral part of its business planning process. Annex 2 sets out the benefits, both cash-releasing and operational, that should be delivered over the next five and ten year period. The agreed budget to underpin the remit letter will be set out at Annex 3 to the Remit Letter.
5. All Welsh Government Sponsored Bodies (WGSB) are issued with a Framework Document at Doc 2. which confirms relationships, responsibilities and delegations and aims to ensure consistency in the treatment of all WGSBs. All Framework Documents contain some common standard features therefore.

Next Steps

6. The draft Remit Letter and Framework Document have been submitted to the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development for his initial views, pending discussion with the NRW Board. The final Letter and Framework Document will be issued from the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development to the Chair, Peter Matthews.