** Briefing**

**Chief Executive’s Report – September 2017 Board**

1. Since the last meeting I have held the following meetings and visits, not otherwise covered in the Chair’s report:

* **University of South Wales**: I met Helen Langton, the Pro-Vice Chancellor to discuss the lessons that can be learned from change programmes.
* **Black Mountains Land Use Partnership**: a very informative visit to meet the graziers, Brecon Beacons National Park, and Natural England, to discuss the programme which includes bracken management and bog restoration.
* **Bog restoration** – an interesting project in the upper reaches of the Rheidol, which will possibly be extended using funds from the nearby wind-farm scheme.
* **Bwlch Nant-yr-Arian** – to meet staff, see the new kitchen and feed the kites!
* **Chartered Institute for the Environment** – I met Emma Wilcox, the CEO, and we discussed opportunities for closer liaison with NRW and other Charter bodies.
* **Severn Trent** – together with Ceri Davies, we met EmmaFitzgerald, Andy Hughes and Grant Batty to discuss the Dee Valley arrangements, PR19, and opportunities for closer working between NRW and Severn Trent.
* **Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)** - together with Mike Willis and Kathryn Monk, we met Sally Hayns CEO and Diana Clark, Welsh project officer, to discuss opportunities for closer liaison between CIEEM and NRW, and ongoing areas of mutual interest. I will be speaking at the CIEEM Welsh Section conference on 5 October.

1. **Office visits** – between now and the time I finish, I hope to visit most of the NRW offices to give my thanks to staff, sometimes combining these with visits to see operational activity. To date I have visited:

* **Buckley, Rhuddlan and Clawddnewydd** – where I saw a demonstration of ‘electrofishing’ on the river Elwy, water bathing issues at Rhyl, flood management at Rhyl Cut, and continuous woodland cover at Clocaenog.
* **St Mellons** – where I attended the annual barbeque!

1. **Tyfu cohort 5** – I was delighted to address the final Management Team TYFU group. The programme has been very well received and forms a good model for future learning and development activity.
2. **Staffing** – our Head of Legal Services, Dave Cavell, retired at the beginning of September. Sarah Asbrey has already started as Dave’s replacement; Sarah has come from the Crown Prosecution Service and there was a good hand-over period. Dorota Lee has been appointed as Head of Internal Audit; Dorota has been on secondment from Companies House to NRW for the past two years. We warmly welcome Sarah and Dorota.