

### **Confirmed Minutes**

Title of meeting:	NRW Board Meeting – Public Session The Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells and Microsoft Teams
Date of meeting:	27 January 2023
Present Board Members:	Sir David Henshaw, Chair Clare Pillman, Chief Executive Prof Steve Ormerod, Deputy Chair Karen Balmer Julia Cherrett (9:30 to 10:00; 11:30 to 12:00) Geraint Davies Zoë Henderson Prof Calvin Jones Mark McKenna Dr Rosie Plummer Prof Peter Rigby
Present Executive Team Members:	Rachael Cunningham, Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services Ceri Davies, Executive Director of Evidence, Policy and Permitting Prys Davies, Executive Director of Corporate Strategy and Development Sarah Jennings, Executive Director of Communications, Customer and Commercial Gareth O'Shea, Executive Director of Operations
Additional Attendees Present:	Colette Fletcher, Head of Governance & Board Secretary (All items) Rob Bell, Head of Finance (Items 6 & 7) Russell De'Ath, Senior Specialist Advisor, Vision 2050 (Item 8)
NRW Observers:	Gavin Bown, Head of Operations Mid Wales (All items) Kate Evans, Public Affairs and Private Secretary (All items) Sarah Williams, Head of Corporate Strategy & PMO (All items)
Public Observers:	Helen Pittaway Steve Griffiths, BASC Tom Tibbits, Chair of Friends of the Upper Wye Kim Waters, Welsh Rivers Union Lloyd Evans Additional members of the public

Title of meeting:	NRW Board Meeting – Public Session The Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells and Microsoft Teams
Declarations:	<ul> <li>Dr Rosie Plummer – Member of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority which has wide-ranging interactions including (relevant to this agenda) landscape designations, Special Area of Conservation (SAC) rivers, and Marine zone. Plantlife Trustee – Plantlife is a collaborator on the Natur am Byth project and recipient of other NRW grants.</li> <li>Prof Steve Ormerod – Member of two Welsh Wildlife Trusts (no influence on policy); Vice President of RSPB (no influence on policy); Fellow of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (no influence on policy); Scientific research interest in water quality through Cardiff University</li> <li>Prof Calvin Jones – Management Board Member for Skyline which has interests on NRW managed Estate</li> <li>Geraint Davies – Member (no influence over policy): RSPB Cymru; National Trust; National Farmers Union of Wales; Farmers Union of Wales; Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust; Member of an advisory group working on the future direction of the Efyrnwy/Lake Vyrnwy Estate that has land in a SSSI</li> <li>Mark McKenna – Chief Executive of Down to Earth which has an ongoing planning application in a SAC area Karen Balmer – Group CEO of Groundwork North Wales (Wrexham venue for Natur a Ni Citizens' Assembly)</li> </ul>
Apologies:	Julia Cherrett (10:00 to 11:30)
Secretariat:	Jocelyn Benger Natalie Williams Deborah Lee

#### Item 1. Open Meeting

1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and explained the conduct of the meeting. Declarations of interest were made as noted above.

#### Item 2. Review Minutes and Action Log

#### 2A. Review Minutes from Public 16th November meeting

2. The minutes from the public meeting on 16th November were reviewed and agreed.

#### 2B. Review Minutes from Public 17th November meeting

3. The minutes from the public meeting on 17th November were reviewed and agreed.

#### 2C. Review Public Action Log

4. The action log was reviewed and noted.

#### Item 3: Update from the Chair

5. The Chair gave an update on Board member appointments. The process was nearing completion and an announcement would be made shortly on the final appointments to the Board.

6. Meetings and discussions had been taking place with the Minister on budget and on water quality issues.

#### Item 4: Report from the Chief Executive

7. The Chief Executive provided an update to the written report.

8. The Yellow weather warning as noted in the written report had resulted in a sustained period of bad weather and flooding, to which the response teams had responded well. A wet February was forecast and therefore, combined with industrial action by the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) Union and others, NRW was in rolling incident mode.

9. The appointments of the new Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales, Prof Jas Pal Badyal FRS, was noted and it was explained that the Chair of the Evidence Advisory Committee (EAC) would want to be in contact with him.

10. Board members commented on the content of the Report. The Strategic Review of Charging (SRoC) had been discussed at the private Board meeting and the importance of learning from this process was highlighted. Concerns were raised about the time taken for a review to take place, the resulting proposed scale of increases, and the suggestion in the media that the process was being used as leverage for unwelcome activities. It was confirmed that this was not the intention or purpose of the process, and it was recognised that regular reviews should take place in future to avoid large scale increases.

11. The importance of assuring that costs were properly covered through the permitting regime was explained. Board members noted that the Report highlighted global biodiversity issues and referred to the discussions at the private Board meeting on the global, substantial risk to people in the future, pollution issues, climate change, the urgency of the issues, and the importance of appropriate funding, of which income from charging was highly important.

12. The impact on the farming community of increases in charging for permits was raised, particularly in relation to outcomes on sheep dip disposal. The level of stress currently being experienced by the farming community was highlighted.

#### Item 5: Update Reports of Committees and Forums

13. Karen Balmer as Interim Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC), updated the Board on the meetings held on 15th December and 13th January. The summary of the meeting on the 15th December was contained in the paper. The additional meeting on 13th January had taken place on cyber security, and had resulted in an action for the Executive Team (ET) on undertaking a gap analysis.

14. Prof Peter Rigby, as Chair of the Evidence Advisory Committee (EAC) noted that the next meeting would take place on 21st February.

15. Sir David Henshaw as the Chair of the Finance Committee (FC) updated the Board on the meeting held on 10th January. A summary of the meeting was contained in the paper. Updates on the Business Transformation Programme and progress on Procurement and Contracts (Funding Framework) were highlighted. 16. Julia Cherrett as Interim Chair of the Flood Risk Management Committee (FRMC) updated the Board on the meeting held on 24th January. The Capital Programme had been reviewed and considered. It had been good to see some of the schemes that were successfully delivered at Llanfair TH and Cowbridge, and particularly at Llyn Tegid which had received positive community feedback. The Ammanford Scheme was discussed and further work on this would take place with FC. Work was ready to commence on the project at Stephenson Street.

17. Professor Calvin Jones as the Chair of the Land Estate Committee (LEC) updated the Board on the first meeting held on 19th January. This was a new Committee set up to give assurance on the Estate and National Nature Reserves (NNRs) managed by NRW. This had been a good first meeting and all agreed that the opportunity to talk about the Estate was appreciated. An introductory piece was welcomed along with an interesting presentation on the Renewable Energy Developer (RED) Programme. A draft outline of the scope and approach to the Recreation Strategy was presented. The Committee agreed that more engagement should take place than recommended on the scope and proposed an increased timeline to facilitate this. It was proposed that this would return to the Board in early 2024 for approval.

18. The Board considered the proposal to increase the timeline on the Recreation Strategy delivery. Some concerns were expressed about the extended time period. The LEC Chair explained the rationale on ensuring a full engagement process. Board members agreed to the extended timeline.

### DECISION: The Board approved the increased timeline for the Recreation Strategy to the full Board in January for their approval.

19. Julia Cherrett as the Chair of the People and Remuneration Committee (PaRC) recommended that LEC should scrutinise the Wellbeing, Health and Safety updates relating to the public. The Board agreed to this proposal.

## DECISION: The Land Estate Committee to scrutinise the Wellbeing, Health and Safety updates relating to the public.

20. Julia Cherrett as the Chair of PaRC updated the Board on the meeting held on 13th January. The agenda had been restructured to follow the People Programme led by the Head of Organisational Development, which would facilitate reporting of the milestones and dependencies. Good progress on was being made on leadership and an update was received on the Business Transformation Programme. The Wellbeing Health and Safety (WHS) update was reviewed, and the Committee were pleased to see the reaccreditation to ISO450001. Thanks were offered to all those involved. A deep dive took place on the WHS risk. The Audit Report on poor behaviours was scrutinised and lessons learned considered. It was highlighted that there was a need to land the work on management and team members' roles and responsibilities. A good discussion took place on customers, although it was noted that there would not be an improvement in the information available until an appropriate ICT system was put in place.

21. Board members discussed the ICT requirement for the customer information. The Executive Director of Communications, Customer and Commercial (CCC) explained that the Development and Innovation (D&I) programme on this had been paused due to resourcing. The unintended consequences of this were noted, although it was recognised that there were some things that had to be paused. Board input on priorities was welcomed. The Chair of PaRC confirmed that a detailed discussion had taken place at PaRC which recognised a significant reputational risk on this.

22. Dr Rosie Plummer as the Chair of the Protected Areas Committee (PrAC) noted that the next meeting would take place on 7th February.

23. Zoe Henderson as the Chair of the Wales Land Management Forum (WLMF) updated the Board. The paper was taken as read. The Sub-Group continued to meet monthly, and included very useful discussions with good presentations, in particular on achieving alternative measures, and understanding of phosphate issues from an agricultural perspective. Areas for consideration for future meetings would include considering the time taken for matters to get going, and a focus on phosphates as well as nitrates.

24. Professor Steve Ormerod as Chair of the Wales Fisheries Forum (WFF) and Wales Water Management Forum (WWMF) took the papers as read and noted the importance of receiving these papers in giving more visibility for the public on the issues and the breadth of work that was ongoing. Board members requested that the Welsh spelling should be used in reference to places.

### ACTION: Secretariat to amend the spelling of the Faenol Estate in the WFF Update paper and to ensure that Welsh spelling of place names are used in the future.

25. Geraint Davies as Chair of the National Access Forum for Wales (NAFW) took the paper as read and highlighted that the Forum enabled stakeholders access to talk with government officials. The next meeting would take place in March. The Chair of the NAFW would be meeting with the Minister in two weeks' time, and was looking forward to reporting on the work of the Forum and access in general.

26. The Board welcomed the fora reports. It was recommended that information on the scrutiny by relevant committees should be included in the Board papers, particularly in relation to items for approval.

#### Item 6: Finance Performance Report

Presenter: Rob Bell, Head of Finance

27. The Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services introduced the item. The Head of Finance presented the Finance Performance Report to 30 November 2022, which had been reported to ET and FC. The position to date on income was behind profile on timber at the end of November and the timber income forecast had been reduced from £36m to £34m. Further trade was awaited before a decision was taken on whether to amend the forecast again. The pay award had been processed in December and had been found from salary savings and vacancies through the year.

28. Expenditure was ahead of profile and around 2% more than this time last year, however there was around £20m more to spend this year overall. The risk areas of overspend for the end of the year were explained. These related to Capital and Non-Staff costs, mainly in the Land Stewardship Programme. Discussions were ongoing to ensure that the Land Stewardship Programme came in on budget. An exercise had taken place with the Leadership Team (LT) and reported to ET; a summary of this was included within the report. Budgets had been reduced by £2.3m. There was confidence that the Forest Holidays receipt of £1.8m would be retained. It was anticipated that there would be a net central pressure of around £0.5m. Around £3.5m additional Capital funding was in the process of being secured for this year; £1m of this would be for the Peatland Programme within the Nature and Climate Emergencies Programme (NaCE). A grant offer letter had been drafted which was now with the Minister for approval. An additional £2.5m had been

requested to undertake the Flood Capital Programme this year. It was noted that if the additional funding was secured, the total budget for this year would increase to £241m.

29. The Head of Finance requested Board approval for receipt of a pensions' payment from WG for next year of up to £7m, and to make the subsequent adjustment to the budget. It was noted that this request was not included within the paper and was part of the balancing of next year's budget. Final confirmation was awaited from WG. Board members approved this request.

### APPROVED: Receipt of the pension payment from Welsh Government and subsequent increase in the overall budget.

30. The Chair thanked the team for their work on balancing the budget. It was noted that there were a number of variables which could create challenges going forward. An update would be provided to FC and the Board Update Call in February. Board members suggested that there could be some slippage resulting from the Resilient Communities grant. The impact of tree diseases on timber income was queried. The Executive Director of Operations explained that this was not having a significant effect as it had been managed for a number of years as part of a programme.

#### Item 7: Internal Drainage Districts Budget

Presenter: Rob Bell, Head of Finance

31. The Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services introduced the item and the Head of Finance presented the item for approval. This was an annual request which had been scrutinised by FRMC. It was explained that the Board was the administrator for the Internal Drainage Districts (IDDs) and therefore formal approval and delegated authority were requested as detailed in the paper. A brief overview of the function of the IDDs was provided, which included works that were undertaken on main rivers with a benefit to the IDDs and costs covered by raising drainage rates and special levies on agricultural users and local authorities.

32. Board members discussed the IDDs and queried if there were NRW staff fully employed to deliver the IDDs. The Executive Director of Operations confirmed that there were dedicated staff but IDDs were mainly delivered as a part of staff roles. It was queried whether a complete track of the costs was maintained and whether the costs were fully funded from the IDD budget. The Head of Finance explained that every IDD had a discreet cost centre for recharge, but the effort involved by a team might not necessarily be completely covered due to the size of the precepts. The Chair recommended that FRMC should consider this, particularly in view of Board discussions on ensuring regular reviews of costs in order to avoid sudden large increases.

## ACTION: FRMC to consider the full costs of the Internal Drainage Districts in conjunction with the Head of Finance

33. The Board approved the recommendations as set out in the paper.

### APPROVED: The Internal Drainage District (IDD) special levies, drainage rates and precepts for 2023/24

#### APPROVED: The common seal to be affixed to the Approved Drainage Rates

# APPROVED: Delegation of the Board's responsibilities for approving annual statements to Rachael Cunningham, Executive Director for Finance and Corporate Services.

#### Item 8: Natur a Ni

Presenter: Russell De'Ath, Senior Specialist Advisor, Vision 2050

34. The Executive Director of Corporate Strategy and Development introduced the item. Work had been undertaken with harder to reach groups to obtain input from them to add to the first phase input. Feedback on the process would be received from the consultative group. The next steps would involve preparing the vision to ensure that it would be truly reflective of the input from communities. It was emphasised that this was not an NRW vision but a shared vision for Wales. A Citizens' Assembly would be developed over the next few months.

35. The Senior Specialist Advisor, Vision 2050 presented an update on the Natur a Ni Programme and the work towards developing a shared vision for the natural environment of Wales. It was noted that there was a slight error in the paper, which referred to an appendix, which had not been included with the paper. The Phase 2 Report and the session plans for the Citizens' Assembly would be shared after the meeting.

36. The first phase was explained, and the nine emerging themes were shared. The plan to develop a mini vision around each one was described. An example of statements of the future were shared. The focus groups had been specifically set up to include those who were less likely to be engaged. Roadshows had taken place in areas of least response from the first phase. The membership of the focus groups was described. The three main objectives were shared. The statements had been set out in full to the focus groups for their views on how much they saw these as a part of their future. The responses were shared, along with one of the audio recordings from the groups.

37. The work on the planned Citizens' Assembly was described. This aimed to bring the work together to create a shared vision for the future. This would be developed in coproduction with an Advisory Group made up of external advisors, which would be followed by deliberating expert evidence to develop a vision. The first Assembly would take place online on 11th February, followed by in person meetings in March in Wrexham and Swansea. The outcome from the Citizens' Assembly would be a shared vision of what the future would look like when society and nature thrived together.

38. Board members welcomed the content of the presentation. The approach to the next phase was queried and Board members asked how the evidence base would be considered and brought into the process. It was proposed that the results and vision would feed into the next State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR). The team were also looking at building an external network with partnership organisations around commitment towards some of the actions. The market and global challenges were noted but the desire of the public to bring these actions forward would be emphasised. The synergy between the Corporate Plan and the Natur a Ni process was noted.

39. It was queried whether the spread of voices from across Wales could be achieved and evidenced. The approach to the response options was considered. Copies of the full vision statements were requested. It was confirmed that advice on the cohort had been received from Sortition and the Diversity and Inclusion Advisor. The diverse make-up of the Assembly was described. The methods of support for those who were harder to reach were discussed. It was suggested that in some cases, vouchers would be a more suitable form of payments, particularly for those on benefits. The Senior Specialist Advisor, Vision 2050, explained that advice had been taken from Sortition on enabling everyone to participate and the effects on benefits had been considered. Work was also taking place with the arts sector on encouraging engagement with the issues.

## ACTION: The Senior Specialist Advisor, Vision 2050 to share copies of the full vision statements with the Board

40. Board members welcomed the approach to engaging with Young Farmers but emphasised the importance of reaching out to a broad range of farmers and businesses, particularly those involved in food production in Wales, as this could help in challenging the global norm approach to food production. The alignment with the Area Statements was queried. It was explained that the Natur a Ni programme was working at national level but also trying to engage on a local level, particularly through Public Service Boards.

41. The venues for the Citizens' Assemblies were discussed, particularly the Swansea University Bay Campus. It was considered that this offered an opportunity to promote discussion and stimulate ideas. The Senior Specialist Advisor, Vision 2050, noted that the venue for north Wales would be at Groundwork, Wrexham. Karen Balmer declared an interest in this venue.

42. The opportunities for shared information and learning were discussed, particularly with the other UK nations and Ireland but also with other organisations. The approach to bringing everything together was considered and the fit with SoNaRR was discussed. Discussions would take place at a future Board meeting on this and the Advocacy Strategy.

#### Item 9: Public Engagement and Transparency at Board Meetings

Presenter: Colette Fletcher, Head of Governance and Board Secretary

43. The Executive Director of Corporate Strategy and Development introduced the item. This had been discussed on several occasions and the team had undertaken a piece of work to consider the approach to public engagement and develop the evidence to put forward for the Board to consider.

44. The Head of Governance and Board Secretary gave a presentation on the results of the public survey. The background to the issue was described and the survey methodology and responses were explained. It was noted that there had been a limited response, which had not been very diverse. There was an appetite for NRW to explore other mediums than Teams. The results in relation to engagement options were described. There was strong support for public questions to be submitted in advance, responses given in the meeting and minuted, and also strong support for additional separate local sessions. Other suggestions from responders were described, particularly around engagement on local issues. There was a strong appetite for citizen science and public discussion on topics around planning issues and local area interests.

45. It was noted that NRW were meeting its statutory obligations in terms of transparency and public scrutiny at Board meetings and therefore it was recommended that the focus should be on the areas of highest priority. The recommendations on this were shared. The suggested approach to the Q&A session was described. Questions received in advance that were relevant to agenda items could be included within the paper and answers provided and minuted that way. Other questions not related to agenda items would then be directed to general enquiries. The open mic part of the Board meeting would therefore be removed as the questions would be integrated into the Board meeting. It was recommended that additional public engagement opportunities could be identified around

Place and national Public Affairs work. Communications would be issued to the public following the Board decision on this item.

46. Board members considered the content of the presentation and recommendations. The parallels with Natur a Ni were noted. The opportunities to engage more with diverse voices across Wales were recognised and it would be important to continue to challenge on this. The relationship between Board members and their local Head of Place was highlighted. The relationship and connection with local issues was discussed and it was suggested that the Engagement Practitioners Network could consider the approach to Board members' local area engagement.

47. The approach to the public questions of the Board was discussed. Board members emphasised that it would be important for the Board to see the questions and responses on issues as these had been addressed to them. It was suggested that NRW should consider asking the public what topics they would like to discuss with the Board. The Board preferred to retain the public Q&A session and agreed that this should remain. In addition to this, it was proposed that a travelling in-person engagement session should be developed, which would involve the Chair and/or Vice-Chair, local Board members and Heads of Place. This could allow the public the opportunity to set the agenda for their local area. The Board agreed to this proposal. It was highlighted that the Area Statements could be used to inform the sessions. The current methods of Board in-person engagement were considered, for example at the Royal Welsh Show and Eisteddfod.

### ACTION: The Head of Governance and Board Secretary to develop the approach to Place-based Board public engagement sessions

48. Board members asked to see the desk-based study and research that had been drawn out internationally on how other countries approached this issue. The Head of Governance and Board Secretary would recirculate the information from the November Board meeting.

## ACTION: The Secretariat to recirculate the information from the November Board meeting on the review of public engagement

APPROVED: The recommendations for public engagement and transparency at Board meetings except for the removal of the Public Q&A session from the public Board agenda

**Item 10: Proposed Changes to the Statutory and Legal Scheme (SaLS)** Presenter: Colette Fletcher, Head of Governance and Board Secretary

49. The Head of Governance and Board Secretary presented on the proposed changes to the Statutory and Legal Scheme (SaLS) as detailed in the paper.

50. The Board approved the proposed changes to the SaLS.

#### APPROVED: The proposed change to the Statutory and Legal Scheme (SaLS)

#### Item 11: Board Forward Look

Presenter: Colette Fletcher, Head of Governance and Board Secretary

51. The Head of Governance and Board Secretary shared the Board Forward Look document and provided an overview. The meeting in March would focus on the Corporate Plan, Budget and Business Plans.

52. Zoe Henderson requested additional time for the item on the Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report to enable a full discussion by the Board on what NRW were doing to ensure that inclusion and diversity were truly supported. It was noted that a full conversation had taken place on this issue at PaRC.

### ACTION: Secretariat to include additional time on the March Board agenda for a full discussion on Diversity and Inclusion in NRW

#### Item 12: AOB

53. Mark McKenna left the room for this agenda item.

54. It was proposed that Mark Mckenna should be appointed as Chair of the People, Customer and Stakeholder Committee (PCSC). The Board approved this proposal.

### APPROVED: The appointment of Mark McKenna as Chair of the People, Customer and Stakeholder Committee (PCSC)

55. Mark McKenna re-joined the meeting and the Chair thanked him.

56. The Board noted the approval by correspondence of the temporary Board membership of the Land Estate Committee.

#### APPROVED: The temporary Board membership of the Land Estate Committee

#### - Board meeting closed -

#### Public Q&A

57. A question had been received in advance of the meeting from Lloyd Evans on the Dairy Project and this had been responded to outside the meeting.

58. The Board took questions from Kim Waters. These included:

- a) Can NRW make a public statement at the next public board meeting as to the Prof Elwyn Evans report on the floods of 2019/20. Specifically, the river Usk's (a SAC) ecological and biodiversity health is greatly impacted by multi 5 Metre plus floods each year. Could NRW make comment on attenuation options available given the system has 4 Welsh Water reservoirs at the system.
- b) 2022 will see the worst return on Salmon and Seatrout across Wales rivers. Many tributaries of our iconic salmonoid rivers are now devoid of any salmonoid species fry, parr etc. What is the plan to repopulate these damaged catchments? Will restocking only happen by "wandering" fish or will SNR become part of the strategy. Can NRW point to a vision or target of what they aim to achieve with this and programmes like LIFE. Can NRW point us to the evidence that supports its nonstocking policy.

59. It was agreed that a full response would be provided to the questions outside the meeting but the Executive Director of EPP provided an overview response to the questions.

60. The report by Prof Elwyn Evans was being produced on behalf of the Welsh Government and therefore NRW did not have the publication date. The outcome would however be reported to a future meeting. All NRW's information reports and section 19

reports had been published on the website. NRW had reviewed its own evidence and taken actions which were part of the public record.

61. An overview of attenuation reservoirs was provided, and it was explained that their ability to attenuate was limited by their capacity due to size. Additional activities and actions such as the Peatland Restoration Programme and Natural Flood Management approaches were being pursued to help with this however these would have limited ability in a storm event.

62. The question regarding Fisheries was noted. This was a very topical issue and due to be considered at the next WFF meeting. Prof Steve Ormerod as the Chair of the WFF commented on the question and noted that the papers would be in the public domain by the following week. The links and evidence base on the non-stocking policy would be sent to Mr Waters as part of the formal response to his questions.

#### ACTION: The evidence base on the non-stocking policy and links to be sent to Mr Kim Waters as part of a formal response to his questions

63. Tom Tibbits, as a representative of a citizen science group, asked why NRW were not using citizen science more routinely in line with the approach by the Environment Agency.

64. The Executive Director of Operations noted that a response had recently been sent on the Lower Wye and a full response relating to the Wye would be sent after the meeting. The Chair commented on the Board's view on welcoming citizen science and support for this as a key element of the approach going forward.

65. Tom Tibbits asked a question regarding poultry manure concerns on impacts on river catchments and why NRW were not objecting to new planning applications on this.

66. The Chair confirmed that this was an important topic on NRW's agenda and had been discussed as part of the private meeting. The Executive Director of EPP confirmed that conversations were taking place with the Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales, who was charged with looking at any gaps in the legislation. NRW's roles and responsibilities were explained in relation to the permitting process and as a statutory consultee in the planning process. It was noted that no comment could be made on specific applications. It was agreed that NRW would respond to Mr Tibbits in writing and confirm NRW's responsibilities with regard to the process.

## ACTION: A formal response to be sent to Tom Tibbits on NRW's roles and responsibilities to planning and permitting.

#### - Meeting closed –