

# Natural England Board

Meeting 8  
12 December 2007



Paper No: **NEB PU08 01**

Title: **Stakeholder Engagements**

Sponsor: **Guy Thompson, Executive Director External Affairs**

## 1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to:

- Further apprise the Board of the steps being taken to secure stakeholder engagement in the delivery of Natural England's *Strategic Direction*;
- In this context, inform the Board of engagements carried out/planned by Chair and Deputy Chair between 9 October and 12 December 2007 (Annex 1).

## 2. Background

- 2.1. At the June Board meeting, the Board was apprised of actions taken to deepen our engagement with our partners and stakeholders, at national and regional level through the development of an account management framework to underpin the Corporate Plan. Since the last Board meeting, action has focused on aligning our external affairs activities, including stakeholder engagement, government relations and communications.
- 2.2. In addition a stakeholder survey has been run during September and October. Which acknowledges the stakeholder activity undertaken by Natural England since vesting.

## 3. Issues

### 3.1. Account management – update

3.1.1. Regional account managers are now in place for the common core of partners. Relationship plans, describing the nature of our relationships with our partners, including joint objectives will be in place for all of these and the top 100 national partners by the end of Quarter 4.

### 3.2. Integrated External Affairs plan

3.2.1. Since the last Board meeting, we have focussed on developing a framework which will allow Natural England to align external affairs activity with the Strategic Direction in order to help build our reputation as a distinctive public body, and deliver our desired outcomes.

- 3.2.2. This framework will enable Natural England to engage in a focussed, sophisticated and managed way with stakeholders, government and media.
- 3.2.3. A national plan has been drawn up for the next six months, which identifies, by outcome, particular interventions from our strategy and policy areas and legislative processes, where concentrated external affairs activity is required. An integrated approach has then been taken to plan this activity. By Christmas, we will have a schedule of external affairs activity for the first half of 2008, with a full schedule for 2008 by the end of quarter 4. Stakeholder engagement by Chair, Deputy Chair and Chief Executive will be linked to this.
- 3.2.4. Regions are also working on regional external affairs plans for 2008, aligned to national activity, but also describing key region specific interventions. These will be prepared by the end of quarter 4.
- 3.2.5. Regional stakeholder engagement will link to these plans and provide the focus for Board Members' and Regional Directors' stakeholder engagement in the regions.
- 3.2.6. Once fully implemented, we will have alignment between our external affairs activity conducted at national and regional levels by Board, Executive Board and the ELG and our stakeholder engagement plans. Chair's and Deputy Chair's engagements between the October and December Board meetings demonstrate the developing framework (Annex 1).
- 3.3. Natural England Stakeholder Survey
- 3.3.1. A stakeholder survey was carried out during September and October. National and regional stakeholders were interviewed by an independent market research company. The results show that stakeholders appreciate the level of engagement by senior staff. This engagement has given Natural England a reputation of being authoritative. Stakeholders would like to see more of Natural England's policies, being communicated consistently across the organisation. A summary of the report is provided as annex 1 to the Transition paper NEB BR08 03.

**Engagements attended – 9 October 2007 to 12 December 2007**

**Martin Doughty, Chair**

<b>October</b>	
9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting, Sheffield
10 <sup>th</sup>	NFU Reception (with Helen Phillips)
19 <sup>th</sup>	BBC Rural Affairs Committee, Birmingham
24 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with CABE, (with Helen Phillips), London
24 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with Chairs and CEOs of SNH, CCW and DOENI, (with Helen Phillips), London
29 <sup>th</sup>	Natural England First Anniversary, Stakeholder Event (by video link)
<b>November</b>	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Environment Agency Conference, London, speaking engagement
7 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Conference, Leeds
8 <sup>th</sup>	Thames Gateway Meeting, London
12 <sup>th</sup>	Chairs Group Dinner, London
13 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Conference, London
13 <sup>th</sup>	LEAF Presidents' Event, London
14 <sup>th</sup>	Hazel Blears' round table event: 'Mobilizing Communities in Tackling Climate Change'
14 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with Lord Plumb (Association of Conservative Peers)
15 <sup>th</sup>	Natural England Future of Farming Awards (with Poul Christensen), Stamford, Lincs.
20 <sup>th</sup>	Meet new CEO, Kew Gardens (with Helen Phillips), London
21 <sup>st</sup>	Meeting with RSPB (with Helen Phillips), Sandy, Bedfordshire
21 <sup>st</sup>	Meeting with Richard McCarthy, DCLG (with Helen Phillips), London
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Meeting with JNCC - Peter Bridgewater and Deryck Steer (with Poul Christensen)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with Crossbench Peers, House of Lords, London
28 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with Visit Britain (with Helen Phillips)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Expert Advisory Group Dinner, London
<b>December</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Climate Change Parliamentary Reception (tbc)
4 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with EEDA, Richard Ellis, Chair (with Helen Phillips)
5 <sup>th</sup>	Coastal Access Dinner (host with Helen Phillips)
6 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with SITA Trust, London
6 <sup>th</sup>	Visit to South Downs proposed National Park
10 <sup>th</sup>	Thames Gateway Event
11 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with Jonathan Shaw re. Coastal Access
11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup>	Natural England Board Meeting

## Poul Christensen, Deputy Chair

<b>October</b>	
9-10 <sup>th</sup>	Natural England Board Meeting
15 <sup>th</sup>	Hindhead Event
16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council Meeting
17 <sup>th</sup>	Business Links Dinner, Buckinghamshire
18 <sup>th</sup>	Agricultural Land Tribunal Dinner
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Strategy Refresh sub-group, Sheffield
25 <sup>th</sup>	Defra Management Board Meeting
26 <sup>th</sup>	RASE Assessment, Stones Farm
29 <sup>th</sup>	Natural England First Anniversary Stakeholder Event
<b>November</b>	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Conference, Birmingham
6 <sup>th</sup>	Defra Capability Review Meeting
9 <sup>th</sup>	Farming and Rural Issues Group, Dorking
12 <sup>th</sup>	German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection
13 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Conference, London
14 <sup>th</sup>	Agriculture Forum
15 <sup>th</sup>	Natural England Future of Farming Awards
19 <sup>th</sup>	Future of Farming Conference, Brit Oval Conference Centre
19 <sup>th</sup>	Farewell Dinner for Howard Dalton & Janet Grossman
20 <sup>th</sup>	Visit to Harwell Campus
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Meeting with JNCC, Peter Bridgewater
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Defra Management Board Meeting
27 <sup>th</sup>	West Kent Conference, speaking engagement
28 <sup>th</sup>	Expert Group Dinner
29 <sup>th</sup>	Hindhead partnership meeting
<b>December</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Meeting with ADAS, Jackie Evans and Colin Spellar
4 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch with Sir Don Curry, London
5 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with JNCC, Peterborough
10 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with Lord Plumb, House of Lords
11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Natural England Board Meeting

**Forward Look of Engagements before the next Board meeting, 12-13 February 2008**

### Martin Doughty, Chair

<b>December</b>	
18 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with Lord Haskins, Natural England Office, Sheffield
19 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with John Armit, Olympic Delivery Committee with Alison Barnes, London
<b>January</b>	
9 <sup>th</sup>	County Surveyors Society Dinner
10 <sup>th</sup>	National Parks visit (with Helen Phillips), Northumberland tbc
16 <sup>th</sup>	Natural England/RSPB reception
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Dinner with RASE Hugh Oliver-Bellasis and John Moverley (with Helen Phillips), London
28 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting with Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, DfT, London
30 <sup>th</sup>	Natural England NGO Dinner
<b>February</b>	
12 <sup>th</sup>	BBC Rural Affairs Committee
12 <sup>th</sup> /13 <sup>th</sup>	Natural England Board Meeting

### Poul Christensen, Deputy Chair

<b>December</b>	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Defra Management Board Meeting
<b>January</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>	Oxford Farming Conference
9 <sup>th</sup>	Central Oxfordshire Steering Group
14 <sup>th</sup>	Hindhead Partnership meeting
24 <sup>th</sup>	Defra Management Board
29 <sup>th</sup>	Oxford Radio Biology Centre
<b>February</b>	
12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	Natural England Board Meeting

