

Cabinet Commission – Restoring the Wye
Wednesday 19 October 2022
2.30 – 4.00 pm Via MS Teams

Chair:	Cllr Liz Harvey	LH	Herefordshire Council
Commissioners	Cllr Jake Berryman	JB	Powys Council
	Cllr Catrin Maby	CM	Monmouthshire Council
	Cllr Paul Hiett	PH	Forest of Dean
	Cllr John Harrington	JH	Herefordshire Council
Note Taker:	Maria Branco	MB	Herefordshire Council
Attendees:	Rachael Joy	RJ	Herefordshire Council
	Liz Duberley	LD	Herefordshire Council
	Ana Coxixo	AC	Herefordshire Council
	Peter Morris	PM	Powys Council
	Mark Hand	MH	Monmouthshire Council
CC for Information	Paul Walker		Chief Executive Herefordshire Council
	Peter Williams		Chief Executive Forest of Dean Council
	Cllr Swinglehurst		Chair of the Nutrient Management Board
	Martin Quinne		Environment Agency
	Emma Johnson		Natural England
	Gavin Brown		Natural Resources Wales
	Ross Cook		Corporate Director
	Tracey Coleman		Interim Director of Planning
	Cllr Louis Stark		Chair of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee
	Jesse Norman MP		Member of Parliament

	Item
1.	<p>Attendance / Apologies / Introductions</p> <p>No apologies.</p> <p>Cllr Paul Hiett was welcomed to the meeting as a very recent nomination from the Forest of Dean Council.</p>
2.	<p>Background</p> <p>The meeting received a background briefing on historic and present efforts by the statutory agencies, councils, NGOs, water companies and farming sector to restore the Wye to favourable conservation status. The meeting was also appraised of current governance arrangements and the nutrient management plan along with progress on calls by Councils for further actions and faster progress. The Chair welcomed Commissioners from authorities across the catchment and highlighted what the Cabinet Commission needs to aim for and its purposes. In particular building an evidenced based picture and recommendations for further action.</p>

	Item
3.	<p>Terms of Reference</p> <p>The Commissioners considered the terms of reference which had been set by Herefordshire Council Cabinet. It was agreed that Monmouthshire and Forest of Dean would each provide an introductory paragraph explaining their involvement with the Commission.</p> <p>Action: Forest of Dean and Monmouthshire will provide an introductory paragraph for the terms of reference.</p>
4.	<p>Review of Nutrient Management Board</p> <p>Commissioners received a briefing on plans to review the governance arrangements supporting the delivery of the Nutrient Management Plan through the present Nutrient Management Board which is currently constituted as a voluntary body with a voluntary plan. The NMB had been in place for some time now and the formation of the Commission is an opportune time to review the Board and its governance arrangements to ready them for the future needs of the Wye.</p> <p>Commissioners were advised that whilst a review could be undertaken no one organisation had the power to compel others. Nevertheless it was felt that an independent call for evidence might assist partners by bringing forward well researched and evidenced proposals to create stronger governance and performance management arrangements.</p> <p>Commissioners also wanted to receive clarity on the legal status of the NMB and its Nutrient Management Plan and requested advice be made available for the next meeting</p> <p>Action: RJ to circulate a draft call for evidence and legal advice to be commissioned (report progress to the next meeting in November)</p>
5.	<p>Farming and Agriculture</p> <p>The Commission received a briefing on Water Protection Zones (WPZ) which had been declined by DEFRA and led to the creation of the Commission. In particular, attention was drawn to a case study of the Poole Harbour Scheme which had taken three years to design with the farming community before incorporation into a court order. The scheme would take ten years to deliver and would likely see a further ten years pass before benefits are seen, The Scheme had check points at 2024, 2027 and 2030 and if progress had been insufficient would lead to consideration of a WPZ.</p> <p>Discussions have commenced with Farm Herefordshire, the NFU and CLA on adopting a similar but catchment relevant approach here. Representatives have agreed to meet fortnightly to develop an outline scheme for partners to consider and if agreed developed in detail.</p> <p>Commissioners were made aware that the President of NFU (National Farmers Union) is visiting in January and agreed work should take place on a joint presentation for that meeting.</p> <p>The Commission considered how Welsh Farming could be brought into this process and it was decided to evaluate whether Natural Resources of Wales catchment support funding could be used for a capacity building project.</p> <p>Invite representatives of the farming and agriculture working to the December meeting Presentation to be prepared for the President of NFU for January's visit</p>

	Item
	Powys to develop a bid for submission to NRW for capacity building support within the indicative £40k allocation from NRW.
6.	<p>The Farming and Agriculture Supply Chain The Commission received an overview of the Wye Agri Partnership Project to work with the supply chain to reduce Phosphate Pollution. The Commission Agreed to invite the partnership to make a presentation at the next meeting in November.</p> <p>Actions: Wye Agri Partnership to be invited to present to the next meeting in November</p>
7.	<p>The National Policy Framework The Commission was advised of potential regulatory gaps which needed national consideration- these included what restoration looked like in the context of climate change and national challenges relating to food, water and energy security. The Commission also wanted to explore issues relating to farming rules for water and the regulation of poultry flocks below 40000 birds. Policy discussion papers would be brought to future meetings.</p>
8.	<p>The Local Planning Framework Commissioners to identify opportunities within the local planning system for further exploration by the Commission HC preparing a paper on the local plan and enforcement for next meeting</p>
9.	<p>Jesse Norman MP – Call for a five year Plan and Engagement With MPs The meeting considered a paper which compared the terms of reference for the Commission with Jesse Norman MPs call for a five year action plan for the Wye at a meeting in July. A discussion took place on linking local and national political representation to work together on river restoration.</p> <p>Chief Exec Paul Walker to send to Jesse Norman MP</p>
10.	<p>Next steps The Commission work streams will commence activities and report back as per the draft forward plan</p>
	<p>Date of Next Meeting 16th November 2022,</p>