



Board Strategy Meeting 20 March 2012

Board Report Number: STRAT 03/12

Board Engagement Activity

- Summary:** This report provides details of engagement activity undertaken by members since the last update given to the Board. The intention is to provide such reports (verbal or written) at each subsequent Board or Board Strategy meeting, dependant on such activity taking place, to ensure that the activity is noted for the public record and to give members the opportunity to discuss issues recorded at, or arising from, the activity.
- Purpose of the report:** For discussion
- Report Author:** Jennifer McCulloch, Clerk to the Board
- Appendices:** Appendix 1 – example template

Board Engagement Activity

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the Strategy meeting held on 13 December 2011 the Chairman expressed his wish for a renewed commitment to Board engagement, in particular looking for opportunities for involving new members. This commitment has been endorsed by the Agency Management Team and as a result of an email sent by the Clerk to the Board to the Senior Leadership Team, 5 appropriate responses have been received (detailed below).
- 1.2 In 2009 the concept of Board buddying was developed in support of SEPA's Change Programmes. As a reminder the role of a Board buddy was agreed to be to:
- bring expertise and knowledge to the table;
 - assist in the shaping of the Programme;
 - liaise and attend (if possible) meetings with Programme Managers (and relevant others);
 - review documentation and milestones throughout the life time of the Programme;
 - secure Board engagement and ownership for the AOP delivery.

It is the intention to revisit the concept of buddying, not only in support of the Change Programmes, and members are invited to suggest any particular areas of input they wish to make.

- 1.3 For the benefit of new members, an explanation of the key issues arising at engagement meetings is provided to the subsequent Board Strategy meeting through either a brief written summary or an oral update prepared by the member using an agreed template. Since the last Board Strategy meeting, two Board members have taken part in a recent event to be considered as Board engagement activity but the timing of the event was such that only a verbal report will be given at the meeting.

2. Board Engagement activities

- 2.1 The Better Environmental Regulation Programme will drive transformational change fundamental to SEPA's future, particularly now that work to develop a new funding model has also moved under the governance of the Programme. Over the next year the Programme will be moving through some critical stages and given this there is a need to increase Board engagement. Given the scale and nature of the Programme it is proposed that rather than having Board buddies for the programme as a whole that key Board members are engaged on particular aspects at important stages. This will include participating in some of the stakeholder engagement during the joint Scottish Government/SEPA consultation on legislative change this Spring, acting as an early sounding board on possible new funding models and providing early views on the planned approach to employee engagement and the strategic human resources priorities that will need to be tackled to enable the change.
- 2.2 In this context Helen Zealley and Richard Dixon took part in a meeting in connection with a specific part of SEPA's engagement on Better Environmental Regulation on 19 March 2012 in relation to 'Tackling Environmental Harms' and how best to engage environmental NGOs. Helen took the role of chairman of the event and Richard acted in an observer capacity to learn how SEPA engages with stakeholders as well as hearing about Better Environmental Regulation and future plans for 'environmental harms' projects.

- 2.3 SEPA takes a co-ordinated proactive approach to planning and prioritising European, International and Parliamentary engagement via the External Engagement Unit in the Chief Executive's Department. This unit would like to explore with Board members how they could be more involved in this area of work, individually and collectively.
- 2.4 To aid discussion, the Unit will present its activity to Board members at a pre-Board meeting seminar on 29 May 2012. Prior to this, however, Board members are invited to participate in a workshop on 9 May 2012 in Edinburgh to explore future EU policy and legislation and the potential impact on Scotland's urban and rural environments. This event will be hosted by James Curran, David Sigsworth, and Bob McIntosh, Scottish Government's new Director for Environment & Forestry.
- 2.5 Following the email exchange with SEPA's senior leadership team these further proposals for future Board engagement activity have been received.
- A visit to the Ineos refinery in Grangemouth, particularly as part of the learning /induction process for new Board members (the Board last visited Ineos in 2006). If involving the whole Board a wider discussion could be held on the challenges facing the industry, the Industrial Emissions Directive, Control of Major Accidents and Hazards Regulations (COMAH) and flooding issues.
 - Participation in a joint meeting with the Forestry Commission on wind farms to which developers building on Forestry Commission land will be invited. Presentations on peat and forestry residue and planning will be aimed at them.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Board is invited to **note** the report and to consider which activities in which they would wish to engage.

Jennifer McCulloch
Clerk to the Board

12 March 2012

Board Engagement Activity
Report to the Agency Board from xxxx¹

Topic	
Purpose of meeting/ engagement	

Date/venue of meeting	
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Stakeholders/ staff present	
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Structure of meeting	
Report by xxxx (leading Board member)	
Comment by xxxx (any supporting Board member)	
Outcome of meeting/ engagement	

¹ Insert name as appropriate