



## Agency Board Meeting 16 February 2021

Board Report Number: 03/21

### Board Buddies

<b>Summary:</b>	The cyber attack has resulted in a change to organisational work priorities. The current Board Buddies requirements are being reviewed. It is proposed that several will be put on hold for the time being and a small set of new ones will be set up to support our recovery work over the next five months.
<b>Risks:</b>	The only risk is that, if we don't change the set of Board Buddy topics, we will miss the opportunity to gain Board insight and support on the most important recovery issues that management will be dealing with over the next five months.
<b>Resource and Staffing Implications:</b>	Board Buddy projects will continue to have an EMT lead with other members of staff involved as appropriate for the subject area. No extra resources will be needed.
<b>Equalities:</b>	Equalities will be built into individual Board Buddy project work.
<b>Environmental and Carbon Impact:</b>	There is very minimal direct environmental or carbon impact in Board Buddy arrangements as most of this work will currently be carried out remotely.
<b>Purpose and audience of the report:</b>	This report provides a proposal for Board Buddy arrangements for the next five months.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Jennifer McWhirter, Clerk to the Board
<b>Appendices:</b>	N/A

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The need for Board Buddies has changed following the cyber attack. It is proposed that several of the previous Board Buddy projects not continue for the time being and that a small set of new ones be set up for the next five months. This will be aligned to the priority work in the six work streams in the recovery plan.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The guidance and style Terms of Reference for Board Buddy projects discussed and noted by the Board on 30 June 2020 will continue to apply.
- 2.2 The list of Board Buddy projects following the Strategy Board meeting on 15 December 2020 are as follows:
- EU Exit
  - Board Succession and Diversity Group
  - Flood Risk Management
  - Deposit Return Scheme
  - SEPA Becoming a One Planet (Net Zero) Organisation
  - Water Environment Fund
  - Green Recovery
  - Health and Safety
  - Communications
- 2.3 The Deposit Return Scheme Board Buddies met on 8 February 2021. This Board Buddy project is one that EMT will recommend should continue.

## 3. Issues

- 3.1 Work is ongoing to identify the Board Buddy projects that need to remain active and those which should be placed on hold.
- 3.2 The further work we will complete on workstream priorities over the next two weeks will determine the issues we will propose as new Board Buddy topics.
- 3.3 If we wait until the March Board Strategy meeting to propose new topics, the groups will not start meeting until early April. We therefore propose that we provide a set of topics for out-of-session approval to the Board Chair and Audit Committee Chair. Once approved, Board members will be asked to nominate for topics and the Board Chair will decide the composition of the various Board Buddy groups.

## 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Board approves:
- (i) the proposal to propose a revised set of Board Buddy topics to be approved by the Board Chair and Audit Committee Chair out-of-session, and
  - (iii) Board nominations are sort out-of-session and that the Board Chair will make decisions out-of-session to assign Board members to the various topics.

**Jennifer McWhirter, Clerk to the Board**  
**11 February 2021**