

SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

AGENCY BOARD MEETING

The one hundred and seventy fifth meeting of the Agency Board took place at 1.00 pm on Tuesday 27 July 2021 via Microsoft Teams.

Present:

Terry A'Hearn	Craig Hume
Bob Downes (Chair)	Julie Hutchison
Fran van Dijk	Harpreet Kohli
Michelle Francis	Nick Martin
Nicola Gordon	Philip Matthews
Martin Hill	

In Attendance:

Graham Applegate	Principal Policy Officer (Item 10 only)
Craig Ballantyne	Junior Business Consultant (Item 8 only)
Simon Bingham	Unit Manager, Regulatory Strategy (Item 9 only)
Colin Gillespie	Principal Scientist (Item 10 only)
Jo Green	Chief Officer, Green Recovery
Martin Grey	Head of Communications
Laura Hamilton	Personal Assistant, CEO
John Kenny	Chief Officer, Circular Economy
Fiona Martin	Chief Officer, People & Property
Stuart McGregor	Chief Officer, Finance
Jennifer McWhirter	Clerk to the Board
Martin Marsden	Head of Environmental Quality (Item 10 only)
David Pirie	Executive Director, Evidence and Flooding
Lorraine Rahmani	Junior Project Manager (Item 9 only)
Jennifer Shearer	Head of Enforcement
Kari Speirs	Corporate Officer
Hannah Swanson	Graduate Trainee
Emma Taylor	Unit Manager (Item 10 only)
Jennifer Welsh	Head of Finance (Items 17 and 18)

Safe SEPA @ Board

The Clerk to the Board advised that the Board that work around Safe SEPA following the cyber attack is ongoing and that this item will be kept on the agenda, Board members should contact her if there is anything they want raised under this item.

1 Chair's opening remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed Martin Grey, Jennifer Shearer (as delegate for Ian Buchanan) and, Kari Speirs, Laura Hamilton and Hannah Swanson from the AMT & Board Support team. The Chair confirmed that a 10-minute break had been scheduled after item 9 and a 5-minute break before the private session.

The Chair confirmed that Nicola Gordon has been reappointed as a Board member for a second term.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Ian Buchanan, with Jennifer Shearer attending as delegate.

3 Order of Business

The order of business was as outlined on the agenda.

The Clerk to the Board confirmed that one item of AOB had been received and that it was scheduled for a Board members only discussion after the private session.

The Board homologated the decisions made at the Strategy Board meeting on 29 June 2021 to approve the 2021-22 Annual Operating Plan, agree the 2021-22 income and expenditure budget and agree that the Agency Management Team can allocate the capital funds in line with the organisations ability to deliver projects in year.

4 Declarations of Interest

Due to the references to the Forth and Clyde Canal within the board papers, Nick Martin declared that as of 3 August 2021 he is an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee of Scottish Canals.

5 Approval of the minutes of the Agency Board meeting held on 25 May 2021 and the Special meeting held on 5 July 2021

In response to a question regarding when the Hydro scheme consultation (item 17 in the minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2021) will come back to the Board, the Chief Executive advised that it was discussed at the Agency Management Team (AMT) Committee meeting on 6 July 2021, with further work being agreed before it comes back to the Board. It will be scheduled for a future Board meeting at the appropriate time.

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2021 were **approved** as an accurate record of the meeting.

In response to a question about the release of the cyber-attack review reports, the Chief Executive advised that SEPA is working with Scottish Government and the Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC) in respect of an event at the end of the summer.

In response to a question regarding the availability of briefing notes to assist Board members responding to any questions they are asked regarding the cyber-attack, the Chair advised that unless formally requested, Board members should direct questions to the Chief Executive as the nominated spokesman. The Chief Executive advised that a brief Q&A pack will be made available to the Board.

Action: Chief Executive/Martin Grey

The minutes of the Special meeting held on 5 July 2021 were **approved** as an accurate record of the meeting.

6 Matters arising

In response to a question regarding actions remaining open until they are completed rather than scheduled to be completed, the Clerk to the Board confirmed that actions scheduled on the Board planned can remain open until they have actually come to the Board.

The Clerk to the Board provided an update. She advised that:

Action 664 (Chief Executive's Report - SEPA 14/21) - At its' meeting on 29 June 2021 the Audit Committee discussed a set of questions to pose to management and agreed that these would be addressed in a paper to be discussed at the Audit Committee meeting on 28 September 2021. Subject to any amendment following that meeting, a paper will

then be presented to the 26 October 2021 Strategy Board. This action was proposed as closed but will remain open until the Board meeting it is scheduled for occurs.

Action 665 (Chief Executive's Report - SEPA 14/21) - This work is being progressed. Ongoing.

7 Chair's report

The Chair advised that much of his time has been and will continue to be spent on the Board recruitment/appointments process. As stated under Item 1, Nicola Gordon has been reappointed and, he confirmed that over fifty applications had been received by the closing date of 26 July 2021 in respect of the recruitment of new Board members. Shortlisting will begin week commencing 3 August 2021 with interviews scheduled shortly after.

He confirmed that with the Chief Executive he had met with the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy & Transport and the Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land Reform on 17 June 2021. It was a pragmatic, outcome-oriented meeting highlighting the key role for SEPA in the Scottish Government's Net Zero ambitions and how it ties into SEPA's One Planet Prosperity strategy. These meetings will be held on a quarterly basis.

He drew attention to the Special Board meeting that took place on 5 July 2021, with a focus on the cyber review and advised that recovery plans continue to progress.

The Chair advised that he and the Chief Executive had agreed, based on feedback from Board member 1:1 meetings, to advise Board members of any upcoming events and meetings that they are scheduled to attend as well as provide updates on meetings attended. To this end, he advised that they both have meetings scheduled on 28 July 2021 with the Chartered Institute of Waste Management, and Scottish Land and Estates respectively.

The Chair confirmed that he was due to meet with the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) this week however, the meeting has been postponed at their request. He is scheduled to meet Kevin Quinlan for their first formal quarterly meeting on Friday 30 July 2021.

8 Management Reports

8.1 Chief Executive's Report (SEPA 18/21)

The Chief Executive introduced the report with Craig Ballantyne in attendance.

In response to an opening question from the Chair about whether the revised format of the Chief Executive's Report and additional time allocation met the Board requirements, Board members confirmed that they find that the new format contains a helpful level of detail.

In response to a question on Recruitment (section 4.7) - about how much of a constraint the current position of only recruiting internally for business-critical posts to aid SEPA's recovery, unless there are exceptional circumstances, is the Chief Executive advised that it is limiting but we are keeping as tight a reign on it as possible to ensure that when necessary, posts are advertised externally. An example of this is when the Digital Communications Manager left the organisation, and the post was advertised and recruited externally as it could not be filled internally. However, he highlighted that there is limited budget available this financial year for external recruitment. He advised that the intention is to run a voluntary departure scheme in 2022 and that this will create space within the organisation in the next financial year for an infusion of external skills alongside retraining and refocusing of existing staff.

In response to a question regarding the Training of new Flood Warning Duty Officers (section 3.2) and whether the recorded training session, 'Introduction to flooding in Scotland' by Dr Andrew Black of the University of Dundee could be shared with the Flood Risk Management Board Buddy group, David Pirie advised that SEPA has good links with the University of Dundee and while he therefore does not foresee any issues in sharing the link with the Board Buddy group he will check and confirm.

Action: David Pirie

In response to a question about why the names of the AMT member responsible for items is no longer listed in the report, the Chief Executive advised that this was an oversight during the collation of the report and will be considered in respect of future reports.

In response to a question on Variable Monetary Penalties (VMP) (section 2.5), and whether there is a specific area of focus for SEPA applying them, Jennifer Shearer advised that SEPA are not focusing on a particular area but more on an offence or case that is applicable for VMP being the appropriate tool to use. She confirmed that there are some already in the pipeline, which have been considered over the last few months at the Regulatory Support Group as being applicable.

In response to a question on the Integrated Authorisation Framework (IAF) (section 4.2), and the timeline for delivering processes, Jo Green advised that there are ongoing discussions with Scottish Government regarding the timing of the regulation and confirmed that she will check the latest status and come back to the Board with an update. The Chief Executive highlighted that IAF will make a huge difference.

Action: Jo Green

In response to a question on the Future of Work (section 4.3), and the timeline for the output of this project as well as in respect of the form the output will take, Fiona Martin advised that the current staff survey is due to close on 6 August 2021, and that AMT held a strategy discussion in respect of the interim results on 20 July 2021. The outputs of the survey will come back to the Board in September or October 2021.

The Board asked for more detail on the UK ETS Charging Scheme and IAF in respect of what it means for SEPA, to be scheduled at future Board meetings over the next few months.

Action: Chief Executive/Clerk to the Board

In response to a question on what lessons SEPA can learn regarding the recent weather in northern Europe, David Pirie highlighted that Germany and Belgium are not the only examples in the last week of extreme weather events and highlighted other examples around the world, from extreme rainfalls in China and India, to extreme forest fires in Siberia and North America. Regarding the recent high rainfall over a short timeframe in Germany, while it is too early for lessons learned to be communicated, there are three areas of focus SEPA has identified: 1. Did the warnings have the desired impacts and reach the correct target audience, leading to action being taken?; 2. What was the impact of landslips and erosions combined with the high rainfall?; and 3. What is the significance of the event on the climate models? The answers to these three questions will not be known for some time however these are the areas SEPA plan to focus on when the lessons learned are released. If there are other areas the Board would like SEPA to focus on, please let David Pirie know. The Chair proposed that an update come back to the Board in Autumn 2021.

Action: David Pirie/ Clerk to the Board

In response to a question in respect of Producer Responsibility (section 2.15) and what is involved in the reforming of the UK packaging producer responsibility system and the timescales, and impact within SEPA, John Kenny advised that SEPA has a dedicated

team within the Materials Function - the Producer Compliance and Waste Shipment Unit, and uses the Packaging Recovery Notes (PRNs) to recognise the importance of this work and put the cost directly on the producer. SEPA has influenced this by working closely with DEFRA and the Scottish Government and although it is heavily reliant on a small number of staff it is resourced and, recognised as a priority in the Annual Operating Plan. If the Board want more information, it can be brought to a future Board. In response to a request for a specific example of food producers in Scotland, John Kenny advised that each material has a certain percentage it needs to recover, the food producer joins a compliance scheme, and the compliance scheme takes on the liability through trading of the PRNs. Companies pay into the respective compliance scheme, and each scheme registers with SEPA and reports on behalf of their members and trade.

The Board asked that consideration be given to including a 'So what difference does it make' sentence within updates to help the Board understand why particular areas of work are important, what their significance is and to help get an idea about trends.

In response to a question on Permitting (section 2.2) - querying the status of application numbers and requesting further commentary on why a third of the applications are pending, David Pirie advised that the online permits (septic tank and waste carriers) are simple, high volume permits and that is why they were targeted first to get them back online. Other permits, such as PPC Part A, are far more complex and even when SEPA systems are fully operational again, these permits will still be complex, with longer processing times and involve more manual processes and considerations. Jennifer Shearer confirmed that several PPC Part A permit applications were already on the books prior to the cyber-attack and could not be processed until staff were able to log on again. PPC Part A permit applications are one of the most complex applications and although the determination date is four months, in normal circumstances, this is usually extended by agreement of the operator to enable them to gather all the data required. On the service status following the cyber-attack, SEPA advised operators that new PPC Part A permit applications would not be received until the end of July 2021 when the backlog of permits was cleared, however in reality SEPA staff have carried out pre-application discussions with operators requiring new permits so the applications can be processed quicker, as well as prioritising applicants that required applications quickly. The numbers will change shortly.

In response to a question about Digital licensing (section 2.3), and what scale of labour saving SEPA are expecting when the licensing is fully digitised, the Chief Executive advised that the Board endorsed AMT's aim for no more than 10% of SEPA's regulatory effort being on licencing and permitting decision making. Currently it is approximately 30-40%. The two gains SEPA will make are through process improvements and business model improvements.

In response to a question on Fixed Monetary Penalties – Slurry Storage (section 2.7), and whether VMPs be used in that context, Jennifer Shearer advised that a VMP would be a possibility for that situation, and that SEPA looks at the case and decides what the most appropriate tool is. Initially an Enforcement Notice was issued to get the farming partnership to try and make the improvements, when this did not work, SEPA issued two FMPs. Should it happen again, SEPA would look at issuing a VMP or a PF report.

The Board noted the report.

8.2 Finance Update (SEPA 19/21)

Stuart McGregor introduced the report, and highlighted the 2020/2021 financial position, reminding the Board that SEPA had received an authorised overspend letter from the Scottish Government for £2.5 million, and that Finance will not be able to refresh the forecast until the end of August 2021, when it is expected that accurate staff costs will be collected detailing annual leave, TOIL, and flexi balances as well as all the expenses

accruals. He advised that phase 2 of the Agresso build went live on 26 July 2021 and that the staff self-service of Agresso has been restored with refresher training sessions currently being rolled out. He then focused on the 2021/2022 financial position, highlighting that the report contains the financial performance to 30 June 2021 and is based on the information available at this time, collated from supplier payments, sales invoices via Agresso, and the income via the bank account as of May 2021. At the end of June 2021, SEPA has a net surplus of £15.3 million with £31.6 million income being offset by £16.3 million expenditure. Staff costs are the majority of the expenditure, and it is anticipated that following the publication of the AOP the non-staff costs will increase significantly in Q2 and there will be more meaningful variances to report at that stage. Stuart McGregor confirmed that Q1 charging scheme income has come from invoices issued to larger charge payers including Scottish Water. Due to ongoing work within the stabilising income project, the annual billing run, and issuing of the remaining 2021/2022 subsistence invoices is planned for September 2021. He advised that Capital will be covered in more detail in the private session (item 17), and that in terms of cash, the current forecast is for a £2.5 million cash balance at the end of March 2022. He concluded by confirming that Scottish Government have indicated that a Section 22 from Audit Scotland, is expected and that the external audit will begin in September 2021 working to the December 2021 deadline for Parliament

He advised that Jennifer Welsh, Deputy Head of Finance is leaving SEPA in early November 2021.

In response to a question regarding the table in section 1.1, and whether anything can be done to provide information to the Board in the next report to provide greater clarity on expected expenditure, Stuart McGregor advised that the budgets can now be uploaded onto Agresso following their approval and that we will provide as much detail in the next report as possible.

In response to a question on the difference between 'Budget' and 'Board Approved Budget' in the table in section 1.1, Stuart McGregor confirmed that the Board approved the budget at a fixed point in time and that Finance provide a breakdown of any subsequent movements of the budget. In response to a follow up question on whether the Board should therefore be approving the revised budget, Stuart McGregor advised that traditionally the Board only noted the changes however, he will consider whether the report can be amended to reflect this.

The Chair asked Stuart McGregor to pass on the Board's thanks and appreciation to Jennifer Welsh for all her hard work and contribution over the years.

The Board noted the current position.

8.3 Q1 Performance Report (SEPA 20/21)

The Chief Executive introduced the report, and advised that the future quarterly reports will track targets against the AOP.

The Chair noted that the language in the report needs tightened, to move away from using phrases such as 'delivered a lot', and noted that there is an absence of data and corroboration.

In response to a question regarding an expectation for more detail on the conclusions of the 103 projects conducted during Q1, the Chief Executive advised that in a normal year, SEPA would have had an AOP from April and then in Q1 reported progressed against that AOP. A decision was made not to provide a lot of detail in respect of the 103 projects because the projects were designed to assist in the immediate recovery from the cyber-attack, set up the organisation and input into the AOP for the rest of 2021/22. In addition,

it was felt that producing a detailed status report would be extra pressure on already incredibly tired staff, however Board comments around the potential for a RAG status, to identify successes and completion would be considered going forward.

In response to a question on land use planning applications (section 3.2), and whether there are timed response metrics, John Kenny advised that we would need to be careful how reporting was detailed as land use planning has adopted a new approach to try and influence applications at the start of the process. Therefore the metrics raised would not reflect the whole picture. A future item could be brought to the Board on what the standard would be under the new approach.

Action: John Kenny/Clerk to the Board/

The Board noted the report.

9 The Book - Presentation

The Chief Executive introduced the item with Lorraine Rahmani and Simon Bingham in attendance. He advised that Lorraine Rahmani is leaving the organisation in the next few days.

Lorraine Rahmani, highlighted the journey of 'The Book', the process to get to this point including - the overhaul following staff feedback on the first version, the revised approach to develop it collaboratively via staff workshops, the final revised Book and how it will be rolled out to staff. The Chief Executive provided a practical example in relation to the Regulatory chapter, drew attention to the Flooding diagram and explained the approach to Corporate work.

In response to a question around the Book implying that different job descriptions are required, that there is a need for a rebalancing of performance management to include organisation characteristics and different outcomes and that learning and development will be an integral part of supporting this so that staff know what is expected to do a good job in a phase 2 EPA, the Chief Executive advised that the aim is to have a small number of generic job descriptions. Fiona Martin advised that Job Evaluation will look broadly at the job families and roles to underpin the flexibility required for the organisation and support delivery through the appropriate training with strong collaboration with Unison.

The Board highlighted how helpful and clear they found 'The Book', that the graphics compliment it and asked whether there had been any feedback from external stakeholders. The Chief Executive advised that there was a session planned with Environment Link that Thursday, 29 July 2021. Lorraine Rahmani drew attention to the external elements of the Leven work and other successes to date.

In response to a question about future updates to the Board, the Chief Executive advised that this provides the context, particular challenges or specific updates will come back to the Board as they arise including in respect of sector plans. The Book is the phase 2 EPA model that will then form the intranet.

The Board wished Lorraine Rahmani well for the future.

The Board noted the update and next steps.

The Board had a ten-minute break.

10 Air Quality (SEPA 22/21)

The Chief Executive introduced the report with Colin Gillespie, Graham Applegate, Martin Marsden and Emma Taylor in attendance. Graham Applegate and Colin Gillespie provided a presentation highlighting the key areas from the report including CAFS 1&2, how SEPA can contribute to reducing emissions through CAFS2, providing councils with evidence-based reports, using SEPA data to facilitate engagement, driving towards a zero-carbon economy, and integrating environmental improvement within Placemaking. The Chief Executive highlighted the link between this work and the Organisational Characteristics, focusing on Organisational Characteristic six and the strong partnership working and Organisational Characteristic one and the decisions being made based on this data and information, particularly by local politicians – this is the business model in practice.

In response to a question on whether the funding rules had changed for cities to get LEZ funding, Colin Gillespie advised that SEPA provided evidence on what areas required funding with targets then being set.

In response to a question regarding the app and whether it is still in use, Colin Gillespie advised that the app is still in use and is based on how many buses operate in the streets and their euro class status. It allowed the bus operators to maximise the pollution benefits. Each operator and city was provided their own version of the app.

In response to a question on whether there is any data required that is currently not available, Colin Gillespie provided an example of traffic data as being one of the missing datasets. The data is collected and contained individually within Local Authorities and Transport Scotland but there is not currently a holistic approach with a central data store. Graham Applegate advised that another dataset under utilised is health data recognising that there is currently limitations to using it but that work is ongoing to increase its use in the future. The Board highlighted that two members have strong networks within the NHS so to let them know should the team require any assistance utilising those networks.

In response to a question about whether the modelling involves only the operational greenhouse gases or includes the construction carbon, Colin Gillespie confirmed that the focus now is emissions.

The Chair asked that regular updates on progress be included in future CEO Reports.

The Board noted the content of the paper and presentation.

11 Calendar of meetings for 2022 (SEPA 23/21)

The Clerk to the Board advised that the same approach as normal has been adopted with most of the dates falling on the last Tuesday of the calendar month. She highlighted that the February 2022 meeting is earlier in the month as there is no formal meeting in January 2022 and that this will be the first Board meeting for the new Board members.

In response to question on whether the February 2022 date could be rescheduled due to the Edinburgh half term break, the Chair advised that alternative dates will be looked at and circulated.

Action: Clerk to the Board.

The Board approved the calendar of meetings for 2022 subject to a review of the February 2022 date.

12 Board Work Programme

12.1 Report on Board Seminar 27 July 2021

The Clerk to the Board provided an updated on the session with Chris Stark, CEO of the Climate Change Committee who gave background detail on the Committee, what its remit is, spoke about the challenges of climate change and what SEPA can do, including what needs to be done before COP26. The Board then discussed its reflections on the session and agreed that this would be a focus of the Board Day on 8 September 2021.

12.2 Board Engagement Activity

No engagement activity was raised.

12.3 Board Buddy Register

The Chair noted that the Board Buddy Register is now up to date and should reflect the current status of projects. John Kenny provided a brief verbal update on the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) project.

The Board requested that the Board Buddy Register be circulated via Diligent Boards in a larger font.

Action: Clerk to the Board

13 Board Committee Reports

13.1 Audit Committee – minutes of meetings held on 29 June 2021

The Chair of the Audit Committee highlighted that there had been two meetings of the Audit Committee on 29 June 2021, one solely focusing on the Cyber Reviews and the second being the standard Audit Committee meeting. In respect of the standard Audit Committee meeting he highlighted: item 9 – the internal auditors report where they are only prepared to give a nine month governance statement which will be reflected in the annual report; item 10 – the risk management update has been delayed to September 2021 when it will also go to the Board; item 11 – SEPA will be subject to a section 22 report from Audit Scotland, which is not necessarily a negative as will ensure lessons learnt for the wider public sector; and item 12 – the questions in respect of Tarbolton have been agreed, will be discussed further by the Committee in September with a report then going to the Board in October 2021.

The Board noted the minutes.

13.2 Audit Committee Annual Report to the Board (SEPA 24/21)

The Audit Committee Chair highlighted that the version now on Diligent Board was the approved version highlighting the three minor changes from the draft in respect of sections 2.1.2, 2.1.3, and 2.3.5 providing detail.

The Board noted the report.

The Chair highlighted the comprehensiveness of the three Audit Committee reports on the agenda.

13.3 Change Committee update (verbal)

The Chair of the Change Committee provided a verbal update of the meeting held on 25 June 2021 and highlighting: what the Change Committee agreed they would cover going forward; how items listed in the Change Plan from 2020 have gone following the cyber-attack and the detailed explanation received in respect of the culture change that has been embedded in relation to the admin project which was interesting. Most of the Change Plan has been absorbed into the AOP however a small amount of further work was identified to ensure all elements of the 2020 Change Plan are tracked across. She advised that the Committee had discussed Job Evaluation (JE) and how the Committee could help support finding solutions to some of the challenges regarding it. The Chair of the Change Committee explained that background and examples will be brought back to the Committee to help ensure that this maps to the Future of Work Board Buddy group and does not duplicate work. The final area identified for the Committee to look at was the Future of Work survey, closing on 6 August 2021 which will be reviewed with the wider culture change implications in respect of future staff pulse surveys then being discussed.

The Board noted the verbal update.

14 Action Note

The Clerk to the Board provided an update on the Action Note:

Action 572: The outcome of the review will be presented to the Board in February 2022 as part of the Annual Review of Official Documents and Procedures approved by the Board. Proposed closed.

Action 587: The Chair and Chief Executive to discuss with Scottish Government Sponsor. Proposed closed.

Action 628: It is recommended that an update come back to the Board at the appropriate time and that this action be closed in the meantime. Proposed closed.

Action 633: A revised draft has been received from Scottish Government. This is being reviewed. The final document will then be re-submitted to the Board by circulation for final approval and homologated at a subsequent Agency Board meeting as agreed at the Strategy Board meeting on 15 December 2020. Proposed closed.

Action 649: An action plan is in place. The further discussion will be diarised in the planner as appropriate. Ongoing.

Action 650: This is on the Agency Board agenda for today, 27 July 2021. Proposed closed.

Action 657: This has been added to the Board planner. Ongoing

Action 662: This has been added to the Board planner. Ongoing

Action 663: This has been added to the Board planner. Ongoing

The Board discussed actions remaining on the tracker until the date of the meeting they are scheduled for. The Chair agreed that actions could be de facto closed but remain on the action note until the actual meeting.

The Board discussed action 587 in detail and agreed that there would be a session at the next Strategy Board meeting.

Action: David Pirie/Clerk to the Board

15 Any Other Business

Julie Hutchison proposed a discussion amongst SEPA and the National Parks, together with charities such as Royal Lifesavers and RNLI in respect of the hot weather and drownings to discuss an appropriate response and questioned whether SEPA has a beyond compliance type role here.

David Pirie advised there are forums already in place, led by the Fire Brigade, and confirmed that members of the SEPA Flooding team play an active role regarding water safety. In response to a follow up question around the locus point being Bathing Waters, John Kenny advised the statements issued in respect of the potential flooding over the coming days have referred to wild swimming and camping so were aligned.

16 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 28 September 2021 at 1.00 pm virtually.

The Board had a five-minute break.

The following items were considered by the Board members and officers in private session

17 Capital Spend (SEPA 25/21)

The Board noted the report.

18 Pensions (SEPA 21/21)

The Board noted that this was a very comprehensive report and that it was good to see the fund in order with a bigger portfolio.

The following items were considered by the Board members only in private session

19 Board members only session