

Chief Executive's Report

1. Meetings and Visits

Since the last Board Meeting, I have undertaken the following meetings and visits (not covered in the Chair's report):

Health

I have met the Chief Executive and Director of Public Health of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board, the Chief Executive of NHS Wales, the Chief Executive of Sport Wales, and attended the Health and Sustainability in Wales Conference Dinner. I also met with Dr Richard Lewis, who is taking forward work on behalf of Public Health Wales on 'Social Prescribing' and we discussed the areas and assets where NRW could help with social prescribing and getting people active. As part of the Cymru Well Wales group, I will also be meeting Carl Sargeant, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, to discuss initiatives targeting families with young children.

Wales Resilience Forum

I attended the Wales Resilience Forum, chaired by the First Minister, where there was a discussion on winter preparedness.

Network Rail

NRW has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Network Rail. While most of NRW's relationship with Network Rail has traditionally been around flood risk management, there are many opportunities for further work together; such as asset maintenance and biodiversity.

Metal Mines

I met with the Chief Executive of the Coal Authority and visited abandoned mine works at Cwm Rheidol, which is creating metal mine pollution. NRW has been provided with £600k from Welsh government to investigate further the feasibility of projects to reduce metal mine pollution.

'5 CEOs' Meeting

The 5 CEOs from the 'environmental agency' organisations (EA, SEPA, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, EPA Ireland and ourselves) met in Belfast to discuss, among other issues, the implications of Brexit. We have agreed to maintain close working relations and to share information on the implications for the environment.

Universities

Together with Mike Evans and Kathryn Monk, I met with the Vice Chancellor and senior staff of Cardiff Metropolitan University, and had a tour of the Llandaff Campus. We have identified several areas of possible collaboration, including learning and development, outdoor recreation and the health benefits of the environment.

Marine

I am attending the Dennis Crisp Memorial Lecture in Marine Sciences at Bangor University, delivered by Professor Donal T. Manahan of the University of Southern California.

Elan Valley

I am meeting the Chair and Officeholders of the Elan Links: People, Nature and Water £3.3m project, part funded by the HLF.

CLA Conference

I am attending the CLA Rural Business conference in Cardiff Bay.

Future Generations

I am attending the joint Wales Audit Office/Future Generations Commissioner conference on 'Shaping accountability for future generations.'

2. Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Initiative

The Chair and I attended the launch of The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) initiative at Buckingham Palace; the QCC is a network of forest conservation projects, and was well attended by Commonwealth representatives. NRW will be submitting Wentwood, Monmouthshire, as a candidate for inclusion in QCC.

3. Tyfu

I was pleased to launch the final two tranches of the Tyfu Leadership programme for Management Team leaders. The feedback from the programme has been extremely positive, and the modules will continue into 2017.

Emyr Roberts

November 2016