

HM Government

Natural Capital Committee

## Fifth meeting, Nobel House

03 November 2016, 13:00-15.00

**Chair:** Dieter Helm (DH)

**Members:** Ian Bateman (IB), Paul Leinster (PL), Colin Mayer (CM), Kathy Willis (KW), Diane Coyle (DC), Georgina Mace (GM)

**Secretariat:** Nick Barter (NB), Maggie Charnley (MC), Julian Harlow (JH), Lizbe Pilbeam (LP), Sophie Fraenkel (SF), John Ayre (JA)

### Chairman's Update

A conceptual discussion had been held between some of the members in October, which progressed the prize and valuation discussions further.

DH had an encouraging meeting with the Financial Secretary of the Treasury. It was noted that a further meeting with HMT officials would be helpful.

DH also met with the Defra Secretary of State, Andrea Leadsom. She has proposed meeting the Committee, possibly at the January NCC meeting. The National Infrastructure Commission has launched a call for evidence to inform the development of its long term national infrastructure assessment.

### 25-Year Plan Update

The Framework is now fully drafted but must complete the government clearance process before publication.

### Workstreams

#### a) The Prize

It was agreed that the Prize is conceptually almost complete, but further work is needed on the detailed outcomes. This can be added later, and in the most part does not fall within the NCC's expertise. Instead the NCC will draw out a couple of detailed examples and broad principles.

It was noted that the Environment Analysis Unit (EAU) are also working on the prize, drawing on the NCC's conceptual work, and will be well placed to fill out some of the detail. In discussion, it was recognised that there are significant crossovers between different work-streams notably on the prize, valuation and the 'How to do it' manual.

## b) How To Do It Manual

A discussion was had on the scope of the manual. It was agreed that the 'How to do it' manual supports a place based approach, rather than helping companies to consider their supply chain impacts. This needs to be made clear. It was also noted that further consideration is needed of how to ensure that the manual addressed urban and marine as well as rural areas.

The NCC agreed it was broadly happy with the outline of the 'How to do it manual', subject to a number of adjustments including to incorporate parts of the prize and valuation papers. The secretariat can now progress the drafting, and make it into a step by step guide. Sub-groups of the NCC can be brought in to advise as drafting progresses.

DC explained that Manchester University has set up a computer science data gathering project, to bring together the asset data collected for the urban pioneer. It was noted that this could be used to gather national asset data but that there are issues around consistency and scale of data collected.

## c) Governance

It was agreed that the advice to the Secretary of State should clearly set out the problem that needs to be addressed. The broad principles were generally agreed, but a further iteration of the letter will be circulated for sign-off.

## d) Valuation

The Committee agreed that the revised valuation paper was a great improvement, and will be of particular interest to Defra, the Treasury, the Pioneers projects and to the how to do it manual. A further version will be completed by the end of November.

## e) Pioneers

The Urban Roundtable is planned for 23rd November 2016 in Manchester.

PL is meeting the Cumbrian Pioneer on 22nd November. One objective of the meeting is to establish a more senior programme group led by the local council.

IB reported that the North Devon Pioneer held a workshop at Exeter University to bring together people who have been doing research on the Biosphere.

GM has now met the relevant people within Defra working on the Marine Pioneer.

KW has initiated an educational programme on natural capital at Kew, mapping out natural capital. She is looking to develop it as a citizen science project. This could be a useful case-study.

## Annual Report

The annual report should include a clear and factual report on the 25 YEP, activities undertaken by the Committee, and recommendations to government. Annexes should include NCC papers and the NCC Terms of Reference. Discussion followed on possible recommendations.