

# NATURAL ENGLAND BOARD

**Meeting # 1**  
**17 October 2006**



*Item [M3]*

## **Title: Mid Year Performance Report**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to provide a report on the performance of the founding bodies in delivering on our Strategic Direction in the first half of the financial year.

### **Recommendation**

1. That the Board note the half year performance of the founding bodies in delivering on our Strategic Direction.

### **Introduction**

At the start of the financial year, it was agreed that all three founding bodies would focus their delivery around Natural England's new Strategic Direction.

The attached report summarises performance in the first half of the year.

### **Issues**

Performance has generally been good where delivery against outcomes and targets was the responsibility of one of the founding bodies. Where integrated delivery was necessary, performance has been slow and in some cases has not progressed at all.

Integrating service delivery will be a critical priority for the first six months of Natural England.

The expenditure moratorium has had an impact across all outcomes, however agreement with Defra on the budget will enable work to progress in critical areas of delivery over the remainder of the financial year.

Maintaining staff, customer and stakeholder confidence and support for Natural England as we communicate which work will proceed and more importantly which cannot due to the in-year budget cuts will be a key challenge.