Board Minutes

12/02/2026 09:30GMT
MS Teams - Virtual

Attendance

Present:
Members: Catherine Smith, Gareth Davies, John Davies, Jack Evershed, Hugh Hesketh-Evans OBE, Dewi Hughes, Michael Humphreys, Emlyn Roberts, Caroline Sanger-Davies, Paul Savage,

In Attendance: Gareth Jones, Meilyr Ceredig, Jason Craig, Jose Peralta, John Richards, Pip Gill.

Guests: Karla Price, Maria Richards (Welsh Government)

Absent:
Vicki Spencer-Francis, Russ Thomas

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Declaration of Interests

- **Paul Savage** *Appointed as Non-Executive Director (NED) at RPA England. Start date: 2 March 2026.*
- **Emlyn Roberts** *Appointed Vice-Chair of the NFU Cymru LFA (Less-Favoured Area) Board.*
- **Catherine Smith** *Confirmed she will be stepping down from her role with Fair Share Cymru – Food Distribution Ltd.*

3. Draft Business Plan 2026-2030

Business Plan 2026–2030 The Board received the updated Business Plan 2026–2030.
Key changes made following Board input and feedback were noted as follows:

- Estates Strategy: The overall Estates Strategy has been consolidated and summarised into a single overarching statement within the Plan.
- Outcomes and KPIs: Strategic outcomes are now referenced without the inclusion of operational KPIs. The Board noted that operational KPIs will instead be captured within the Annual Operational Plan 2026–27.
- Risk Assessment: The risk assessment section has been strengthened and now triangulates clearly with the Board Assurance Framework.

The Business Plan 2026–2030 was approved by the Board and will be submitted to the Welsh Government for consideration by the Deputy First Minister to note and approve.
Proposed: P. Savage Seconded: J.T. Davies

The Operational Plan and Budget for 2026–27 will be presented to the Board in March 2026 for approval.

4. Draft Board Programme for 2026-27

The draft Board programme, including proposed Board and sub-committee dates, was presented and approved, incorporating the amended date for October 2026. The Board noted that an earlier Remuneration Committee meeting will be scheduled to enable an appropriate handover from J.T. Davies to H.H-Evans.

5. Any other Business

The Board received confirmation that the Levy Rate increase for 2026–27 has been approved by the Deputy First Minister, effective 1 April 2026.

The CEO confirmed that the restructure has been delivered in full, in line with the approved plan.

The Chair extended thanks to G.W.Davies, J.T.Davies, C.Sanger-Davies, and Prof M.Humphreys for their contributions and service to the Board.

The Board offered congratulations and thanks to members A.J.P.Evershed, E.Roberts, V.Spencer-Francis, and H.Hesketh-Evans OBE, who have been confirmed for a further term.

6. Date of next Meeting

12 March 2026, HCC Head Office, Aberystwyth

Signed Chair of HCC