



## Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee

### Meeting No 1: Minutes

Caerdydd 3, Cathays Park, Welsh Government

4 June 2019

#### **PRESENT:**

Martin Buckle (Chair)	Flood & Coastal Erosion Committee
James Morris (JM)	Welsh Government
Huw Owen (HO)	Welsh Government
Chris Curry (Secretariat)	Welsh Government
Rob Knowles (RK)	Welsh Government
Jonni Tomos (JT)	Welsh Government

#### **Committee Members:**

Adrian Philpott (AP)	Dwr Cymru – Welsh Water
Darren Thomas (DT)	Pembrokeshire County Council
Geraint Edwards (GE)	Conwy County Borough Council
Andrew Stone (AS)	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Jean-Francois Dulong (JD)	Welsh Local Government Association
Jeremy Parr (JP)	Natural Resources Wales
Lorna Davis (LD)	National Farming Union Cymru
Catherine Wilson (CW)	Cardiff University
Karen Potter (KP)	Open University
Paul Blackman (PB)	Wallingford Hydro Solutions
Mike Wellington (MW)	WSP Consultation
David Harris (DH)	Independent Consultant
Natalie Haines (NH)	Mott MacDonald
Anne-Marie Moon (AM)	JBA Consulting

#### **Public:**

Dominic Harries	Senior Flood Risk Consultant
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#### **1. Apologies**

No apologies were noted.

#### **2. Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the inaugural Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee (FCEC) meeting, and introductions were made.

### **3. Declaration of Interests**

The Chair asked members of the committee to consider the papers and declare if they had any conflicts of interest, none were given.

### **4. Ministers Statement**

JM delivered the statement from the Minister, in which the Minister welcomed members of the FCEC to its first meeting.

The statement broadly covers the delivery of the Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management and its imminent consultation. It also encourages the Committee to think wider on matters such as raising awareness and personal resilience to flooding, integration with other policy areas, new areas of research and maximising the benefits from investment.

### **5. Chair's Announcements**

The Chair provided an update on his activities since his appointment.

He has been working closely with Welsh Government colleagues to secure the appointment of the Committee, to make preparations for it to meet, and to ensure that it can fulfil its terms of reference in a way which is as open and transparent as possible. In this process, he has also been liaising closely with colleagues in Natural Resources Wales, and in the Welsh Local Government Association.

The Chair has received requests to attend meetings of a number of fora and met with the Wales Coastal Groups Forum, and the regional flood risk management groups for North and South-East Wales. He plans to meet with the regional group for South West Wales.

Meetings have also taken place with a number of individuals representing other organisations, including members of the former Flood Risk Management Wales Group, as well as the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales and North Wales Tidal Energy.

The Chair had accepted an invitation from the Environment Agency to attend a workshop two weeks prior to the Committee meeting, associated with the consultation on the update of the draft national FCERM strategy for England.

He would have a meeting with the Minister for the Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs during the week after the Committee meeting.

In addition, the Chairs of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees in England have invited the Chair to attend their quarterly meetings, and he will be joining them in Yorkshire later in June.

He has also agreed to meet with the Association of British Insurers and Association of Drainage Authorities in due course.

There followed a discussion about the consultation on the draft FCERM Strategy for England, prepared by the Environment Agency. It was noted that the closing date for the consultation was 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019. It was agreed that a response should be made by the Committee. In view of the short period remaining until the consultation closes, a draft response would need to be circulated electronically around the Committee members for input and comment before submission.

**ACTION 1 – Chair to circulate a draft response around the Committee members for input and comment, with authority to sign off the final version for submission.**

## **6. Reports**

### **6.1 Modus Operandi**

The Chair introduced the Modus Operandi (MO) report and invited the Committee to note its contents.

The MO sets out the operational and internal management of the FCEC, including its terms of reference (TOR), standing orders (SOs) and delegations.

The Committee will be supported by a Secretariat from the Welsh Government, which has no decision making role within the Committee.

The TOR sets out the Committee's purpose, scope, membership, duties, powers, meetings, reports, procedures and arrangements for Sub-Committees. These elements are referenced to regulations within the "Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee for Wales Regulations 2017".

The SOs of the FCEC shall apply for the regulation of the proceedings and the business of the Committee meetings such as; public notice & attendance, papers, minutes, quorum, confidentiality and conduct etc.

The delegation section of the report covers the Chair's delegated powers.

**The Chair** responded to a query from **JP** around the reporting responsibilities of the Committee with regard to Welsh Ministers. The Chair advised that the Committee are required to report annually (covered under regulation 9 – Duties)

**HO** suggested that the Committee wouldn't necessarily want to limit itself to one annual report if there was advice to share with the Minister at other times.

**AP** had concerns around the Committee delivering a programme of work when meeting just 3 times a year. The Chair suggested a potential mechanism for delivery could be to introduce sub-committees and that the work themes could form the basis of the Committee's programme.

**The Report was noted.**

### **6.2 Section 18 of the [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#)**

The purpose of this paper was to brief the FCEC on the background and context of the 'Section 18 report', and to raise some points for potential consideration by the Committee.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has a statutory duty under Section 18 of the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010, to report to the Welsh Ministers about how flood risk and coastal erosion is being managed across Wales, and the application of Wales National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy.

Discussion was led by the Head of Flood and Incident Risk Management, NRW (**JP**), and it centred on the purpose of the report and the request of the Welsh Government (WG) for the Committee to have an oversight role.

**JM** response was from a WG perspective the Section 18 report is a health check, a monitoring tool which provides factual information to Welsh Ministers.

**The Chair** advised that consideration of the information contained within Section 18 report by the Committee was very important in order for it to carry out its functions.

**JP** advised that the forthcoming section 18 report closes the previous National Strategy.

The Chair confirmed at the next meeting the Committee could consider its consultation response to the new National Strategy in conjunction with the section 18 report. It was noted that the Committee's role would be advisory only with regard to the Section 18 report.

#### **6.4** [Wales Climate Change Adaptation Plan](#)

**RK**, Senior Climate Resilience Adviser gave a presentation to the Committee on the draft Wales Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which covers Wales's climate projections and clarification of the decarbonisation and adaptation plans in Wales.

He explained that in the development of the new draft plan, he had been working with over 100 policy leads within Welsh Government as well as colleagues within Defra and other UK government departments.

The draft Plan had been the subject of consultation between December 2018 and March 2019.

The presentation and consultation document were discussed, and the significance of flood and coastal erosion risk management within the Plan was noted.

#### **6.3** **Work Programme / Work Themes**

The Chair introduced the report on the suggested work themes, and asked the Committee to consider the recommendation that the report be approved as the basis of the forward work programme.

The report listed the 11 work themes which are expected to shape the Committee's initial programme of work, and advised that they should be read in context with [Part 3 of the FCEC Regulations \(2017\)](#) which set out the Committee's functions.

Committee members discussed the 11 themes and agreed that it was a comprehensive and effective list, although it was suggested that due to the large number of themes they would need to be prioritised for delivery due to resources.

**NH** drew attention to how the work themes linked with the Committee's duties in the Regulations, and would need to be reflected by the work programme.

**LD** offered to share with the Committee a SWOT analysis progress report of the Wales Land Management Forum sub-group, which would be of value to look at both the content and structure from a committee perspective.

### **ACTION 2 – LD to share report with secretariat to circulate**

The Chair advised that some work themes were time limited and therefore quick deliverables. He suggested that initially the Committee should work with the current themes, with the intention of reviewing and discussing how these themes and priorities will fit into a programme. To be discussed at the September meeting.

**The report was approved.**

### **7. Any other business previously notified to the Chair**

There was no other business.

### **8. A resolution was agreed to exclude members of the public where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

The Chair requested the member of public leave the meeting at this juncture due to confidential items being discussed.

### **9. Confidential Items**

#### **9.1 Registers of interests**

The Chair introduced this item.

### **ACTION 3 – Secretariat to send register of interest form to Committee members for completion**

#### **9.2 Consultation on a National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales**

**JM** provided an update on the new draft strategy.

The Committee discussed the strategy at length and JM thanked the Committee for their comments.

### **9.3 Consultation on Technical Advice Notes (TAN) 14 & 15**

**JT** provided an overview on the draft TAN 14 & 15.

JT welcomed consultation responses from the Committee on the flood considerations.

## **10 Date and venue of next meeting**

The date and venue of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee meeting has already been confirmed as, 10 September 2019 at the Welsh Government offices, Llandudno Junction, Conwy, LL31 9RZ.

The Chair confirmed draft agenda items for this meeting would include:

- Discuss consultation responses to draft National Strategy and Technical Advice Notes
- Review Section 18 report of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010
- Consultation responses to the draft National Development Framework
- Work Programme

**ACTION 4 – Committee to provide Chair with their input on the consultation responses in advance of the meeting.**

**ACTION 5 – Secretariat to investigate the implementation of a secure electronic workspace for the sharing of papers.**

**ACTION 6 – Committee members to look into potential venues, and advise Secretariat if they find anywhere suitable.**