

**Y Pwyllgor Llifogydd ac Erydu Arfordirol Cymru**  
**Wales Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee**

**Annual Report 2025**

**CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
Foreword	3
1. How We Work	4
2. Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales	7
3. Committee Progress in 2024-25	12
4. Looking Ahead	22

**Appendices**

Annex 1	Committee Terms of Reference	25
Annex 2	Remuneration and Allowances	26

## Foreword

1. In late November 2024, over four days, Storm Bert brought rainfall to much of Wales that was between 50% and 100% of that expected during the whole month. Pontypridd, and the wider Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) area, were particularly badly hit. These events are a stark reminder of the scale and immediacy of the climate challenges that we face, and underline the importance of our policies and programmes for tackling flood risks.

2. The previous month had seen the publication of a new Climate Adaptation Strategy for Wales. This was in part a response to the previous year's UK Climate Change Committee's report on climate adaptation in Wales. That report had found a good strategic overview of climate risks, but it also found insufficient progress in the delivery and implementation of adaptation.

3. The new strategy includes a series of sector by sector adaptation action plans, ranging from agriculture to towns and cities, each of which contains extensive actions to manage flood risks. The challenge will be to ensure that these plans are effectively implemented, monitored and updated where necessary. The impacts of the climate emergency are becoming ever more evident, but the rate of change is accelerating.

4. Inevitably, a major flooding event requires the mobilisation of resources in managing the emergency. However, it is the work undertaken over the longer term and between these events, which determines how well the flood risk management sector is mitigating the risks that we all face. In that context, it is encouraging that, across RCT, despite similar levels of rainfall, the number of properties flooded by Storm Bert was much reduced on those of Storm Dennis four years earlier. This reflects a lot of positive action in the intervening period, demonstrating the value of the programmes that are being delivered. Nonetheless, we must not forget that every property flooded represents a tragedy for the household or business concerned.

5. Coincidentally, it was in Pontypridd in October 2024 that the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales (NICW) launched its report on managing flood impacts, looking ahead to 2050. The preparation of the report has done much to raise the profile of flood risk management and to increase consciousness of its urgency. While many of the proposals are of necessity challenging and long term, the response of the Welsh Government, published in March 2025, is providing a renewed sense of energy and direction across the sector. Ensuring that the tools, skills and capacity are in place will need continuing prioritisation.

6. A further recent key step forward has been the publication in March 2025 of TAN15, the new planning guidance for Wales on managing flood risks. Replacing guidance from 20 years earlier, this must be a major driver in changing the outcomes of planning decisions. Monitoring its effectiveness will be critically important.

7. Much more clearly needs to be done to keep pace with climate risks, particularly in adapting our communities and in increasing their resilience. With these improved foundations to build on, the challenge, working together across sectors and communities, is to ensure that we can turn these steps forward into continued delivery on behalf of our communities today, and for future generations.

Martin Buckle

Chair, Wales Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee  
May 2025

## 1. **How We Work**

### **Committee Members**

- 1.1 Members of the Committee over the year 2024/25 are listed below.

Martin Buckle	Chair
Paul Blackman	Wallingford Hydro Solutions
Robin Campbell	Arup
Jean-Francois Dulong	Welsh Local Government Association
Geraint Edwards	Conwy County Borough Council
Natalie Haines	Mott MacDonald
Anne-Marie Moon	JBA Consulting
Jeremy Parr	Natural Resources Wales
Karen Potter	Open University
Dominic Scott	Dwr Cymru – Welsh Water
Andrew Stone	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Darren Thomas	Pembrokeshire County Council – to February 2025
Michael Wellington	Waterco
Paul Williams	National Farmers Union Cymru
Catherine Wilson	Cardiff University

Members were appointed to the Committee in the first instance in 2019. Dominic Scott joined the Committee in 2022, followed by Robin Campbell and Paul Williams in 2023. All of the other members have completed six years of service on the Committee.

### **Committee Meetings**

- 1.2 The full Committee meets in public on a quarterly basis. All agendas and minutes are published on the Committee's website <https://gov.wales/flood-coastal-erosion-committee>. All papers, other than those of a confidential nature, are available from the Committee's Secretariat:

floodcoastalrisk@gov.wales

- 1.3 The Committee meetings held in 2024-25 are set out below.

Committee	Date	Location
FCEC16	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024	Cardiff
FCEC17	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Remote
FCEC18	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Wrexham
FCEC19	19 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Remote

- 1.4 Forthcoming meetings are scheduled for 21st May 2025 in Swansea, and for a remote meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

### **Terms of Reference**

- 1.5 The Committee's terms of reference can be found in Annex 1. They are derived from the Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee for Wales Regulations 2017.<sup>1</sup> Details of remuneration and allowances can be found in Annex 2.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/827/contents/made>

### **Work Programme**

- 1.5 At the September 2024 meeting, the Committee undertook its annual update and roll forward of the three-year Work Programme, extending it to 2026-27. The Work Programme is organised around twelve work themes, and is closely integrated with the National Strategy<sup>2</sup>. The Work Programme is also regularly reviewed and brought up to date at each Committee meeting. The programming of activity around each of the themes over the past year is summarised in the remaining sections of this report.

### **Sub-Committees**

- 1.6 In progressing four of the themes in the Work Programme, the Committee has established sub-committees. Details are set out below. Over the past year, secretariat support for the Sub-Committees has been secured from the Severn Estuary Partnership, hosted by Cardiff University. From April 2025, this role is being shared with the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum. An overview of the work of the Sub-Committees is set out in Section 3 below.
- 1.7 In addition to nominated members of the Committee, colleagues from the Welsh Government also attend Sub-Committee meetings, with additional attendance from organisations represented on the Committee at the discretion of the Sub-Committee Chair.

### **Resources Sub-Committee**

- 1.8 This Sub-Committee was established back in 2020 to take forward Theme 4 in the Work Programme: *"Explore opportunities to maximise resources for FCERM in Wales, including partnership funding contributions"*. The Sub-Committee had six meetings in 2024-25. Its membership was as follows:

Martin Buckle (Chair)	Jeremy Parr
Karen Potter	Dominic Scott
Jean-Francois Dulong (to May 2024)	Paul Williams (from May 2024)
Darren Thomas (to February 2025)	Mike Wellington (from February 2025)

### **Policy & Legislation Sub-Committee**

- 1.9 This Sub-Committee was also established in 2020, in this case to progress Theme 5 in the Work Programme: *"Review of the policy and legislation around FCERM in Wales"*. The Sub-Committee met on four occasions during 2024-25.

Geraint Edwards	Andrew Stone (Chair)
Natalie Haines	Michael Wellington

### **Research Sub-Committee**

- 1.10 This Sub-Committee met for the first time in December 2023. It is taking forward Theme 9 in the Committee's Work Programme: *"To Influence research needs and programmes, and to disseminate research once complete."* The Sub-Committee met for the first time in December 2023, meeting again twice in 2024-25. Its membership up to May 2024 was as follows:

---

<sup>2</sup> [www.gov.wales/national-strategy-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-wales](https://www.gov.wales/national-strategy-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-wales)

Jean-Francois Dulong (Chair)	Karen Potter
Jeremy Parr	Catherine Wilson

Thereafter, the membership changed to:

Robin Campbell	Karen Potter
Jeremy Parr (Chair)	Catherine Wilson

### **Section 19 Sub-Committee**

- 1.11 This Sub-Committee met for the first time in February 2024, meeting again three times in 2024-25. It is taking forward Theme 12 in the Committee's Work Programme: *"To establish high level requirements and supporting guidance for the Section 19<sup>3</sup> flood investigation reports prepared by local authorities."* Its membership up to February 2025 was:

Paul Blackman	Natalie Haines
Geraint Edwards	Darren Thomas (Chair)

From that date, the membership changed to:

Paul Blackman (Chair)	Natalie Haines
Geraint Edwards	Anne-Marie Moon

---

<sup>3</sup> [Flood and Water Management Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/23/section/19)

## **2. Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales**

### **The National Strategy – Committee Work Theme 1**

- 2.1 The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) in Wales was published in October 2020. As a ten year strategy, in 2025 the National Strategy has reached its mid point. The case for a refresh, or indeed a replacement strategy, is now increasingly compelling (para 2.11, p10).
- 2.2 The first theme within the Committee’s Work Programme is to help to implement the National Strategy, along with assisting in its monitoring, updating and review. All of the Committee’s remaining work themes (see sections 3 and 4) are linked to delivering the National Strategy. The Strategy sets out 24 measures, including three which directly involve the Committee: firstly, to consider the need for changes to legislation; secondly, to explore opportunities to maximise investment; and thirdly to establish guidance for local authority flood investigation reports.

### **Programme for Government Commitments**

- 2.3 The Wales Programme for Government for the current five year Senedd term was published in June 2021. It was further updated in December 2021<sup>4</sup>. Within a suite of measures to address climate change, the Programme includes specific commitments to tackle flood and erosion risks:
- Fund additional flood protection for more than 45,000 homes;
  - Deliver nature-based flood management in all major river catchments to expand wetland and woodland habitats;
  - Commission an independent review of the local government Section 19<sup>5</sup> and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) reports into extreme flooding in winter 2020-21;
  - Ask the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales (NICW) to assess how the nationwide likelihood of flooding of homes, businesses and infrastructure can be minimised by 2050;
  - Legislate to strengthen the requirements for sustainable drainage systems that provide wildlife habitat;
  - Establish a scheme to restore seagrass and saltmarsh habitats along our coastline.

### **Flooding Events in 2024-25**

- 2.4 Of the flooding events which occurred in Wales over the past year, the most significant were Storms Bert and Darragh. In the space of two weeks in late 2024, these storms led to communities from Pontypridd to Holyhead being hit by severe wind and rain, widespread flooding, and landslides. Flooding affected more than 700 properties across Wales. The effects of these flooding events were reviewed by the Committee at its meeting in February 2025.
- 2.5 Over four days in late November 2024, Storm Bert brought rainfall of between 50% and 100% of the average expected during the whole month of November. In parts of South Wales, river levels were at their highest ever recorded. The River Taff flooded extensively. Pontypridd, badly hit by Storm Dennis in 2020, was again severely affected. There was a partial collapse of a disused coal waste tip in Cwmtillery, forcing the evacuation of 40 homes. In North Wales, one

<sup>4</sup> [Welsh Government - Programme for Government - Update](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Flood and Water Management Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

person died in floodwaters in Trefriw, Conwy. Critical infrastructure also suffered substantial damage, with railways and key trunk roads experiencing closures, as well as many minor roads.

- 2.6 This storm arrived two weeks after Storm Bert and was characterised by extremely high winds. There was substantial damage to the electricity distribution network across Wales. Damage to berthing infrastructure forced the Port of Holyhead to close entirely for over a month, with widespread disruption to transport networks and to economic activity.
- 2.7 In response to the winter storms, the Welsh Government provided an extra £8.1m in emergency capital funding, as well as household grants for affected residents.
- 2.8 The Rhondda Cynon Taf area was one of the most severely affected by rainfall during Storm Bert, with levels in some locations exceeding those during Storm Dennis in 2020. Nevertheless, the number of properties flooding was significantly reduced. Over 2,000 properties had been protected by flood alleviation schemes, with the council spending more than £100m on improvements to flood defences since Storm Dennis.

#### **Independent Review of Flood Investigations into Extreme Flooding in Wales 2020 – 2021, August 2023**

- 2.9 The effects of these most recent flooding events have added weight to the implications of the extreme flooding of 2020-21 caused by Storms Ciara, Dennis, Jorge and Christoph. As a key component of the Programme for Government, the Elwyn Evans report <sup>6</sup> was commissioned after 3,000 properties across Wales were flooded, with the area of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council being particularly badly affected. The report represents an important step in improving responses to flooding and its aftermath. This independent review reported in 2023. Its conclusions remain under active consideration by the Committee's Section 19 Sub-Committee (para 3.40).

#### **The National Infrastructure Commission for Wales (NICW) – Managing Flood Impacts in Wales 2050**

- 2.10 As a further key element of the Programme for Government, early discussions were initiated in late 2022 on how the Committee might collaborate with the Commission in responding to the request for its advice on mitigating flood risks in the longer term. This was followed, as the workload progressed, by a series of workshops and consultations, including presentations by the Commission to the Committee. The report was published in October 2024.<sup>7</sup>
- 2.11 The Committee considered the Commission's report at its meeting in November 2024, when its response to the report was agreed.<sup>8</sup> Key extracts from our response are set out below:

---

<sup>6</sup> [www.gov.wales/independent-review-flood-investigations](https://www.gov.wales/independent-review-flood-investigations)

<sup>7</sup> [Building Resilience to Flooding in Wales by 2050 – Report – The National Infrastructure Commission for Wales](#)

<sup>8</sup> [www.gov.wales/flooding-and-coastal-erosion-committee-response-building-resilience-flooding-wales-2050-report](https://www.gov.wales/flooding-and-coastal-erosion-committee-response-building-resilience-flooding-wales-2050-report)



*As a report prepared by a body without direct responsibility for flood risk management services, and thus prepared from an independent perspective, the report is to be welcomed. This applies especially with its focus on the challenges of a longer term timeframe to 2050. The report represents a good resource with useful links to examples of best practice. The report is innovative and bold, and brings forward ideas for consideration which extend well beyond existing policy commitments and funding programmes. It has the potential to stimulate discussion about the changes that will be needed to ensure that Wales is well placed to respond to the flood risk challenges of the decades ahead.*

*The report looks to shift from the position that the state will 'do it all'. Given the scale of resource requirements, this shift in perspective is welcome. However, the shift is largely focused on communities. It is particularly surprising that there is little sense of a role for the business community, nor any sense of responsibility within it. There is the potential for flooding to cause major disruption of the economy, with profound implications for productivity, profitability, investment and employment. With business investment in any year well in excess of government investment, with many business assets at risk, with significant flood risk management assets in private ownership, and with property developers having the potential to affect risk levels, mobilising the accountability and resources of businesses in collaboration, partnerships and joint funding should be a key priority. This dynamic is not captured by the report.*

*Inevitably, given the level of innovatory thinking for transformative change, there are considerations of deliverability with regard to its recommendations, both in terms of whether the changes proposed will secure agreement, and whether the capacity, in terms of funding and staffing resources, can be put in place, particularly within the timeframes proposed. A key concern is around the ownership of recommendations. It is not clear where responsibilities would sit in taking forward and considering individual recommendations in more depth.*

**Recommendation 1** sets out a list of seven substantial sets of tasks to be undertaken by a proposed Water Commissioner. The tasks themselves broadly merit support, and bringing these together into a single organisation is an attractive proposition. This role could provide an influential agent for change in a rapidly evolving context. An independent commissioner could be seen as raising the profile of flood risk and resilience, and playing the key role of advocate on behalf of communities in flood risk areas. Having the mechanisms to make things happen on a catchment scale, with catchment co-ordinators, and across different organisations, would be particularly welcome. However the recommendation gives rise to a number of concerns:

- I) The scale of powers proposed would indicate the need for substantial legislative change. Such a scale of change, if agreed, would be likely to require a Senedd term to put in place, so might need a target date for full delivery around 2030.*
- II) Many of the powers proposed for the Commissioner already exist with other organisations. The delivery of some has declined in recent years due to resource pressures. Transferring them would need to be accompanied by a growth in resources if the Commissioner's office were to fulfil the role envisaged.*
- III) Given the breadth of the proposed responsibilities, the resources required for a Water Commissioner's office and team would in any event be substantial. As an example, the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner needs an annual budget approaching £2m.*

- IV) *The responsibilities proposed would imply a transfer of some functions from both the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales, and would necessitate a review of the FCERM roles of both organisations.*
- V) *The role of a Commissioner in relation to coastal issues is not clear, and would require further consideration.*
- VI) *The role of the proposed commissioner in relation to the water industry would require careful consideration given the devolution settlement.*
- VII) *Given the critical nature of FCERM challenges and responsibilities across Wales, the scale of resources required to respond to them, and expectations of responsibility and accountability, it is difficult to envisage arrangements where national co-ordination and leadership were to be provided from outside of the Welsh Government itself.*
- VIII) *Given all of these considerations, and certainly in the interim, there would be a need to consider in much greater depth what role a commissioner might play, and how a commissioner's office could best add value in advance of the scale of legislative change implied.*

**Recommendation 2** - *To create a 30-year national flood & coastal erosion resilience strategy - is welcomed. While our Committee has championed the case for a mid-term refresh of the current ten year National FCERM Strategy, the case for a longer term strategy is well-made. Long term multi-year funding will be a critical success factor to its implementation.*

*While the current Strategy was approved in 2020, much of its preparation, and the thinking behind it, can be dated to 2018 – 2019. Understanding of climate change, and the responses it demands, has made huge progress since that period. While the Strategy was conceived as a ten year strategy, many of its measures were focused on the first few years, and a significant number of these have now been delivered, or are in progress. The significance of its measures as drivers of activity by all those involved in flood risk management in Wales will progressively diminish. There is a strong case now to initiate the preparation of a new Strategy. As well as taking on board the reports prepared by this Committee and by others, the new Strategy would allow the conclusions of the NICW report to be considered for inclusion within that Strategy.*

**Recommendation 5** – *"To pilot and set up regional / local catchment partnerships (to incorporate existing river and coastal forums) to support a systematic and integrated catchment and coastal management approach" is endorsed. The mechanisms for establishing catchment partnerships widely will require careful consideration and consultation, but the potential is there to build on existing initiatives within the short term, and to extend these to the whole of Wales over time. Cross sector collaboration will be a key to success. The recommendation goes on to outline the potential roles and activities of such partnerships. These will need further consideration. There will in particular be a need to review the role of the existing regional working groups, where the need has been identified to strengthen their governance and collaboration.*

**Recommendation 7** – *To streamline FCERM plans into catchment resilience strategies is welcomed. It is one which has the potential to secure effective and necessary engagement from the agricultural sector. However, existing plans and strategies represent valuable elements in the delivery framework for FCERM services. It is important that this value is sustained in the transition to a new spatial dynamic. They also reflect Risk Management Authorities' existing statutory duties. An agreed transition process will be needed.*

- 2.12 The response of the Welsh Government to the NICW report was published on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025.<sup>9</sup> This response will be considered by the Committee at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May in order to review its implications for the Committee's work programme.

---

<sup>9</sup> [www.gov.wales/letter-welsh-government-response-nicw-review-building-resilience-flooding-wales-2050](https://www.gov.wales/letter-welsh-government-response-nicw-review-building-resilience-flooding-wales-2050)

### **3. Committee Progress in 2024-25**

#### **Work Theme 2 – Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Section 18 Reports**

- 3.1 The Committee provides an independent review of the reports prepared by NRW under Section 18 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010<sup>10</sup>. These reports outline progress on the implementation of the National Strategy, with detail on how flood risk and coastal erosion are being managed. The Report for the period 2020-23 was reviewed by the Committee in September 2023 prior to its submission to the Minister.
- 3.2 The next Section 18 report covering the period 2023-25 will be considered by the Committee in September 2025. In the interim year, the Committee had an opportunity to review NRW's own Annual Report.
- 3.3 Their report outlined NRW's strategic oversight role for flood and coastal erosion risk management, and their powers to manage flooding from main rivers, reservoirs, and the sea. In the report, the latest estimates of properties at risk of flooding are over 270,000. This is approximately 1 in 7 properties in Wales.
- 3.4 In considering the report, Committee members raised the following issues:
  1. The need to maintain a strategic focus while being reactive to immediate issues;
  2. The need to focus on growing income, and to include data on income generation, particularly where fees do not cover service costs;
  3. The need for better information on the outcomes of planning decisions;
  4. Capturing information on the role of NRW in the preparation of Section 19 reports;
  5. The importance of completing work on Long Term Investment Requirements to address capital needs beyond flood defences, and also to address revenue requirements.

#### **Work Theme 3 - Highlighting good practice in FCERM**

- 3.5 As is customary for the Committee, the past year has seen considerable sharing of good practice through our programme of meetings. Presentations have been received from a number of Risk Management Authorities. Further opportunities to highlight good practice will be provided through our Committee meetings in the year ahead. Those addressed over the past year have included the following:
  1. Taff Catchment Strategic Flood Management Plan – NRW;
  2. Flood Risk and Hazard Methodology for Assets – Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC;
  3. Upper Severn Valley Water Management Strategy – Environment Agency;
  4. Fairbourne – Coastal Adaptation Update – Gwynedd Council;
  5. Using LoRaWAN sensors to assist flood wardens with asset management – Gwynedd Council;
  6. Storm Bert Overview and Response – Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.
- 3.6 We have also taken opportunities, during the course of the year, to receive presentations from several wider colleagues in linking to broader aspects of policy and good practice, including:

---

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

1. Supporting Communities at Flood Risk - National Flood Forum;
2. Facilitating Natural Flood Management at Catchment Scale – Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust;
3. Planning for Flood Risk – Training for Planners and Flood Risk Professionals – Town and Country Planning Association;
4. Natural Flood Management for Cleaner Waterways – Nature Friendly Farming Network.

**Work Theme 4 - Exploring opportunities to maximise resources for FCERM in Wales, including partnership funding contributions**

- 3.7 This theme in the Work Programme reflects the obligation placed on the Committee by Measure 24 of the National Strategy. It has been taken forward by our Resources Sub-Committee. The Committee's Resources Report<sup>11</sup> was submitted to the Minister in May 2022. The 20 proposals in the Report are organised into six main elements:

1. Capital Funding and the Schemes Pipeline;
2. Partnerships;
3. Revenue Funding;
4. Skills and Capacity;
5. Governance and Collaboration;
6. Community Engagement.

- 3.8 The Minister's response to our Resources Report and those of other stakeholders were reported to the Committee in May 2023. A further report in September 2023 made recommendations on the role of the Committee in progressing the implementation of the report. A number of the proposals in the Resources Report have been taken further by NICW, and are reflected in the Commission's recommendations (Section 2). The following paragraphs set out areas in which significant progress has been made over the past year.

**Creating the Capacity to Lead a Programme of FCERM Resource Improvement**

- 3.9 In order to take the proposals forward, a significant commitment of organisational capacity is needed, phased over a number of years. The proposal in the Report to create the capacity to lead a programme of resource improvement across Wales is therefore of over-arching importance. The Flood and Coastal Risk Programme Board has now agreed to take on this leadership role, with its terms of reference widened, and its meetings lengthened.

**Skills and Capacity – Key Priorities**

- 3.10 The Committee's Resources Report highlights the capacity of our Risk Management Authorities, and that of the WG Water and Flood Team, as critical constraints on the delivery of effective FCERM services. This element of the Resources Report was identified as the key priority. In response to these and similar concerns across the environmental sustainability field, in 2024 the Welsh Government commenced work on an Environmental Sustainability Skills and Capacity Review.
- 3.11 In moving this review forward, a workshop was held in March 2025 to consider more fully the workforce issues facing the FCERM sector across Wales. The workshop was advised that the risk of a lack of skills and capacity in the FCERM

---

<sup>11</sup> [www.gov.wales/resources-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-wales-final-report](https://www.gov.wales/resources-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-wales-final-report)

sector has become a very real, significant and current issue. It challenges Government plans to respond to the climate emergency and flooding risks. This has led to ministerial support for the creation of a Workforce Task and Finish Group, with a focus on early progress as well as more ambitious longer term courses of action. This Group, which will have the status of a full Sub-Committee, will be holding its first meeting in mid May 2025.

### **Governance & Collaboration – Review of Regional Groups**

- 3.12 This element of the Resources Report includes proposals to raise the profile of FCERM within local authorities, and to review the effectiveness of the three regional working groups.
- 3.13 In moving this forward, a meeting was held in January 2025 involving the chairs of the three regional groups, together with the local government and NRW representatives on the Committee. The meeting noted that the NICW report could have significant implications for the work of the regional groups. A follow up meeting will be arranged now that the WG response to the NICW report is available.
- 3.14 The meeting was also advised that, while the interface with the full Committee is generally a positive one, information about the work of the Committee's Sub-Committees is less readily accessible, and opportunities need to be provided for regional group members to contribute to their work. A review of the regional group structure and governance, prepared by the WLGA, will be considered at the follow up meeting. The WLGA will also be benchmarking the skills, capacity and service delivery within LLFAs, with a similar exercise proposed to be undertaken within NRW.

### **Community Engagement – Property Flood Resilience and the Role of the Insurance Sector**

- 3.15 Our Resources Report includes a particular focus on property flood resilience and the role of the insurance sector. This had led to a fuller discussion on the issue through the Committee, and the publication of a report "Insurance & Flood Re – A Wales Perspective"<sup>12</sup> in November 2024. The report reflects critically on the status of flood risk insurance and Flood Re from a Wales perspective. It highlights the limitations of current arrangements, and raises a number of fundamental questions about the way forward. It was brought forward to initiate a dialogue, both with Flood Re and the insurance industry, but also with wider stakeholders.
- 3.16 To facilitate this dialogue, representatives of Flood Re and the Association of British Insurers joined the Committee for our meeting in February 2025. A report detailing the consultation responses and outlining the way forward will be considered by the Committee at its May 2025 meeting.

### **Work Theme 5 - Review of the policy and legislation around FCERM in Wales**

- 3.17 This theme in the Work Programme, taken forward by our Policy and Legislation Sub-Committee, reflects Measure 1 of the National Strategy. The Final Report<sup>13</sup> was agreed by Committee in September 2022 for consideration by the Minister. The Minister's response was received in November 2023. In the light of that

<sup>12</sup> [www.gov.wales/insurance-and-flood-re-wales-perspective](https://www.gov.wales/insurance-and-flood-re-wales-perspective)

<sup>13</sup> [www.gov.wales/case-change-legislation-and-associated-policy-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-wales-final](https://www.gov.wales/case-change-legislation-and-associated-policy-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-wales-final)

response, of the ten original proposals, it was agreed to focus further work on seven, around the following themes:

- The control of FCERM assets, including the designation of features under Schedule 1 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010;
- Roles and responsibilities;
- Flood risk adaptation, both on the coast and inland, and flood resilience.

3.18 Three additional proposals were added to the Sub-Committee Work programme:

- Review of the Elwen Evans Report into Local Government Section 19 reports (para 2.9), in support of the Section 19 Sub-Committee;
- Review of mechanisms for securing investment in assets not in RMA ownership, in support of the Resources Sub-Committee;
- Review of legislative constraints on water companies, in particular in reducing discharges from combined sewers.

3.19 The work of the Sub-Committee has been aided significantly by the Law Commission for England and Wales, who have been undertaking consultations on a further programme of law reform. This has developed into a dialogue between the Commission and the Committee, including periodic Commission representation at meetings of the Committee.

3.20 The Sub-Committee has also been represented on the Environment Agency (EA)/Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) research project's steering group for "Review of FCERM Assets" which ties into the control of assets focus area. It is hoped that the final report will be disseminated in 2025.

3.21 The Sub-committee has also carried out an initial review of *Building Resilience to Flooding in Wales by 2050 report by NICW published in October 2024*. A more detailed review will be undertaken now that the Welsh Government response to the report has been published.

### **Work Theme 6 – Establishing links with other stakeholders**

3.22 Links with other stakeholders are inevitably critical to the work of the Committee. The Wales Coastal Groups Forum (WCGF) and the regional flood risk management groups were identified at an early stage as particularly important.

#### **The Wales Coastal Groups Forum**

3.23 The Forum brings together the Chairs of the four Coastal Groups along with wider stakeholders. It also acts as the advisory panel to the Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre (WCMC). Over the past year, the Committee has been represented on the WCGF by Anne-Marie Moon. A report back on progress is received by the Committee annually, the most recent being considered in November 2024.

3.24 With some strengthening of support staff and stakeholder support, the past year has seen some key steps forward, including clarification of lead partner responsibilities in all Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) Action Plans across Wales. Action Plans have been rationalised and streamlined. A review of Epoch One (short term – up to 2025) policy implementation has also been undertaken, and of Epoch Two (medium term – up to 2055) preparedness. While there has been much progress on the SMP actions, the fact that approx 25% of actions are listed as "on hold", mainly due to resource constraints, demonstrates that there is no room for complacency. Community engagement continues to be under-resourced, and guidance on adaptation remains under-developed. An effective Communication and Engagement Plan remains a priority.

- 3.25 The WCMC had made significant progress over the past year, with 342km of coastal surveys updated and now readily accessible to the public through an online data platform. The Centre has also continued its outreach programme with schools, leading to over 1,000 primary school children now having completed a 12 lesson programme.

### **Regional Flood Risk Management Groups**

- 3.26 Our Committee meetings provide opportunities for the regional groups to provide input and take feedback, while the regional groups also act as a valuable resource for collecting and disseminating information. Mechanisms for strengthening their roles are under consideration (para 3.12 – 3.14), and it is clear that a stronger interface with our Committee would be beneficial. The regional groups continue to bring presentations on issues of regional significance or examples of good practice to the Committee (para 3.5).

### **Wider Stakeholders**

- 3.27 The Committee also recognises the importance of wider links, and the Chair continues to meet with a range of other key stakeholders. Links with the Flood and Coastal Risk Programme Board are being strengthened, particularly in the context of the Committee's Resources Report (para 3.9). With common issues around programme management and legislative change, regular contact also continues to be maintained with the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees in England. Cross-boundary collaboration is also of critical importance, with a particular focus by the Committee over the past year on the Upper Severn (para 3.5).

### **Work Theme 7 – Advising on the integration of FCERM policies and priorities with other relevant policies and legislation**

- 3.28 This work theme has interfaces with a number of the other themes within our work programme. Our reports on legislative change has drawn attention to some key interfaces with wider policy and legislation. Hence our Policy and Legislation Sub-Committee has now been asked to include this theme within its scope. A number of consultation responses progressed under Theme 10 below are also of direct relevance, including those on the Climate Adaptation Strategy, on the Environmental Governance White Paper and on planning consultations.

### **Work Theme 9 – Influence research needs and programmes, and disseminate research once complete**

- 3.29 The Research Sub-Committee has made significant progress on this theme over the last year, with a focus on two key questions: how Wales *identifies its research needs*; and how these *needs are delivered*. A key task for the Sub-Committee is to ensure that Wales engages effectively with the joint England and Wales FCERM Research and Development Programme<sup>14</sup>. In November 2024, the Sub-Committee undertook a workshop to map how research needs are currently being met, and to capture the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of the current practices. This baseline information is being used as the members go on to consider the two key questions above.
- 3.30 At its meeting in February 2025, the Sub-Committee received a presentation from WG's Strategic Evidence Unit on wider links into the UK research

---

<sup>14</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-research-and-development-programme](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-research-and-development-programme)



framework. The information shared will be valuable as the Sub-Committee considers how best to deliver its remit and purpose.

### **Work Theme 10 - Responding to consultations relevant to FCERM in Wales in 2022-23**

- 3.31 As in previous years, key consultations continue to arise regularly, and this theme continues as the focus for much of the Committee's work.

#### **Climate Adaptation Strategy for Wales– Welsh Government**

Following a presentation to the Committee in May 2024, the Committee concluded its comments on what at the time was known as the draft National Climate Resilience Strategy in June 2024. A further opportunity was afforded to the Committee to comment on a late draft at our meeting in September 2024. When published in October 2024, the Strategy became known as the Climate Adaptation Strategy for Wales.<sup>15</sup> Extracts from the response on behalf of the Committee are shown below.

*"As presently drafted, with the topic-based approach, the Strategy is largely 'spatially blind'. While in general this may not be inappropriate, there is a strong case for elements of a spatial focus. This would apply in particular to **the countryside** and the coastline. If it is to be seen as meaningful for the whole of Wales, rural Wales must have a stake in it. The document currently has nothing to say about villages, or the rural economy beyond agriculture and forestry."*

*"Similarly, with climate change **the coastline** requires considerable adaptation, yet this is not apparent from reading the document. This issue represents a major challenge for Wales, with so much of the population, economy and infrastructure along the coast. The National FCERM Strategy includes a proposal to develop coastal adaptation guidance by 2022, but this has stalled and is currently making no progress. The Resilience Strategy could helpfully provide an updated target completion date. All topic resilience plans will be affected by the processes of coastal change. There is a pressing need for the Resilience Strategy to provide a cross cutting framework for WG, other public bodies, businesses and communities on coastal change."*

*"While the population at large may accept that our climate is changing, there remains a lack of widespread buy in to the fact that every organisation, every business and every household will need to change and to adapt. This lack of buy in needs to be recognised by the Strategy, which needs actions to address it. There is a need for **an ongoing national debate** and a national campaign with Welsh Government leadership. Communities are generally profoundly resistant to adaptation, but there is little recognition of this and the need for support in the Strategy. Lack of support from elected leaders is a frequently identified barrier to local level adaptation. The case for adaptation needs to be made, but with greater attention to understanding policy/strategy to implementation gaps and how we can bridge these."*

*"The emphasis on considering the **needs of the most vulnerable** in coping with climate impacts is most welcome. This needs a stronger focus on reducing community vulnerability and on inter agency working for a more equitable society. However, it is far from clear how well the Strategy responds to this requirement, and in particular, how this will be resourced."*

---

<sup>15</sup> [www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-10/climate-adaptation-strategy-for-wales-2024.pdf](https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-10/climate-adaptation-strategy-for-wales-2024.pdf)

*"The Flooding & Coastal Erosion Section summarises what Government is currently doing, but it lacks the forward looking viewpoint that is needed. It would be more valuable if it were to provide an overview of the impacts of climate change on flood and coastal erosion risk management, and **the key flooding challenges facing society** over the coming decades. For example, predicted sea level rise and coastal erosion will place increasing stress on our coastal settlements, which house most of the population of Wales, and the potential impacts on key infrastructure (roads, railways, utilities), housing (loss of communities) and the economy (loss of businesses). It would be valuable to outline here the difficult decisions to be made about development in those areas, the limits to the role of defences, and the need for increasing adaptation and resilience."*

*"The Strategy refers to protecting places. However, there are places where flood defences will not be the appropriate solution, and where adaptation and living with water will need to be the future. It is in these cases where the Strategy needs to help to move discussions forward about **alternative futures for lots of places**. If it does not do so, then a fundamental purpose of having the Strategy will be missed, and a key opportunity lost. The Strategy disappointingly has no actions associated with the challenge of rising sea levels on our coastal towns and cities."*

### **Securing a Sustainable Future: Environmental Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets for a Greener Wales – Welsh Government White Paper**

- 3.32 This consultation was issued in January 2024, with a deadline for response of 30<sup>th</sup> April. Extracts from our response were included within last year's annual report. The Committee received a presentation at its September 2024 meeting outlining the Welsh Government's response to the consultations received.<sup>16</sup>
- 3.33 Broadly the Committee had welcomed the proposals, and the identification of our Committee as one of the public bodies which would be within the scope of the proposed environmental governance body for Wales. The Committee had drawn attention to the need to clarify how the proposed body would provide leadership in a collaborative way to ensure consistent working across organisations. Our Committee has a role in scrutinising the work of the Welsh Government and all Risk Management Authorities including NRW through its role in regularly reviewing reports prepared by NRW under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Section 18. This also involves reviewing progress on the implementation of the National Strategy for FCERM. There will be a need for collaboration between the Committee and the proposed governance body to ensure a smooth interface in delivering the respective roles of each.

### **Planning Technical Advice Note 15 (TAN 15) on Development, Flooding and Coastal Erosion - Welsh Government**

- 3.34 The Committee has responded extensively to consultations at a number of stages since 2020. A new TAN had been launched in September 2021, along with the new Flood Map for Planning, which includes climate change projections, with

---

<sup>16</sup> [www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2024-07/environmental-principles-governance-and-biodiversity-targets-white-paper-our-response\\_0.pdf](https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2024-07/environmental-principles-governance-and-biodiversity-targets-white-paper-our-response_0.pdf)

the TAN to come into effect in December 2021. The TAN would reflect a determination to restrict development in the highest flood risk areas, and to avoid development which places extra requirements on river and coastal defences.

- 3.35 It was subsequently announced, however, that it would not come into effect immediately, providing local authorities with the time to update their strategic flood consequence assessments.
- 3.36 Another round of consultation was initiated on a further draft of the TAN in January 2023. This would increase flexibility to allow for some regeneration and redevelopment within flood risk areas. Extracts from the Committee's response in April 2023 were included within that year's Annual Report. The Committee expressed reservations about the new draft, particularly about the financial burdens that might be put on future generations to sustain further flood defences.
- 3.37 The final version of the TAN 15 update was published in March 2025. It will be considered by the Committee in the first instance at its meeting in May 2025.

### **Promoting a Resilient and High Performing Planning Service – Welsh Government**

- 3.38 This consultation was launched in November 2024 with a response deadline in January 2025. Our response was confirmed at Committee in February 2025. There are important links with TAN15. Extracts follow.

*"It is of the utmost importance for Wales that planning services are adequately resourced. In our report for Ministers: 'Resources for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) in Wales' (May 2022), we highlighted concerns about **the capacity of local planning authorities** to play their role in helping to deliver flood and coastal erosion risk management objectives and wider climate action goals. Specific measures that we proposed included:*

- Ensuring that planning fees are retained by local planning authority (LPA) services;*
- Ensuring that planning fees properly reflect the costs of development management services;*
- Ensuring that all other aspects of LPA responsibilities are adequately resourced;*
- Ensuring that appropriate frameworks are in place to facilitate collaboration between LPAs."*

*"Current problems with resourcing services are acute and will deteriorate further unless LPAs are placed on **a more sustainable financial footing**. Current arrangements mean that LPAs are always moving further away from full cost recovery. This is having a detrimental impact on the delivery of planning services, on the development and management of land, and specifically on our ability to adapt to climate change and to manage and mitigate its implications for flooding and coastal change."*

*"The lack of adequate monitoring of planning services is a critical weakness in service delivery. With **limited evidence of performance**, it is very difficult to understand whether planning services are delivering on their purposes, and indeed whether planning decisions are helping to manage and mitigate flood risk or making it worse."*

"Within our Resources Report, we set out a number of measures to secure **better integration between planning and flood risk management**. Amongst the measures proposed are:

- Ensuring that planning performance indicators effectively measure flood risk outcomes, and that reporting is mandatory;
- Monitoring the effectiveness of planning policy and guidance as it relates to flood risk."

"One of the key concerns within the flood risk management community is **the absence of data on decisions** within flood risk zones. This has been flagged up by Natural Resources Wales in their reports under Section 18 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and indeed by our Committee in advising ministers on those reports. This concern has also been recognised by the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales in their recent report: 'Building Resilience to Flooding in Wales by 2050'."

"A move towards **improved flood risk indicators** would help deliver long term sustainable and resilient development. The existing indicators on flood risk will need to be amended to align with a revised TAN15. Indicators should include the monitoring of planning consents within flood risk zones, e.g. number of planning consents within Flood Map for Planning zones 2 and 3, and/or number of planning consents against pre-application advice, established policy, NRW or SAB advice, or officers' recommendations. The planning system has a responsibility to prevent further inappropriate development in flood risk zones and on floodplains, to minimise the build-up of long-term vulnerability to future flooding."

#### **Climate Conversations Research – National Infrastructure Commission for Wales (NICW)**

- 3.39 Following their work on flooding risks, the Commission has now moved on to consider further elements of the challenge presented by climate change. At our meeting in February 2025, The Committee received a presentation by the commission on further workstreams exploring community engagement and resilient infrastructure. We have now been consulted by NICW further prior to the preparation of their final report, with the aim of a response by June 2025.

#### **Work Theme 12 – Guidance for Section 19 Flood Investigation Reports**

- 3.40 Section 19 flood investigations help local authorities to understand the full impacts of flooding events, and can inform improvements to manage risk in a community, including new measures to reduce the likelihood of further flooding. As pointed out by the Elwyn Evans report (para 2.9), there was already a recognition that change is needed, evidenced by Measure 21 of the National Strategy for FCERM. This requires the Committee to collaborate with the WLGA and local authorities in the preparation of this guidance. Her report identifies a number of limitations in current practice in investigating and reporting on flooding events. The report goes on to highlight a number of strategic, policy and practical changes that could strengthen flood risk management.
- 3.41 In addition to the Elwen Evans report, the Sub-Committee's work is also being facilitated by a review initiated by DEFRA in England in late 2023 and published in April 2025 with the following aims:
- Creating guidance for England on Section 19 flood investigations;
  - Facilitating better collection of data from studies, to feed into better knowledge, understanding and management of flood risk;
  - Identifying where technology could benefit and develop tools for RMAs to collect and submit the data.

- 3.42 The Sub-Committee is now reviewing the Defra guidance against the recommendations of Professor Elwen Evans' report. Key stakeholders will be consulted on any gaps to be addressed. The Sub-Committee is in active discussions with representatives of the Lead Local Flood Authorities to obtain feedback and direction to any recommendations.

### **Committee Members Feedback**

- 3.43 Annual appraisals of Committee Members provide valuable feedback on the Committee's processes and outputs, as well as on the performance of individual members. These appraisals are undertaken at the end of each financial year. Attendance levels at meetings continue to be good, with strong support continuing from the employers of Committee members. The main Committee sustained attendance at 87% for its four meetings. Notwithstanding the increase from two sub-committees to four, attendance continued at a high level, with 90% for the 16 sub-committee meetings.
- 3.44 Participation in the Committee continues to be highly valued. Membership is viewed as a learning and networking opportunity, with the Committee providing an effective forum for the exchange of ideas. There is a willingness amongst members to give up their own time in order to effect positive change. There is a sense that the Committee's collaborative ethos is becoming more entrenched, and that the Committee has grown in stature. The volume of the Committee's outputs is considered to be substantial. Consultation responses are viewed as comprehensive and authoritative.
- 3.45 The culture of the Committee is seen as inclusive and constructive, open and transparent, with a valued diversity of perspectives. The Work Programme is recognised as an effective longer term driver of momentum and prioritisation, although its adaptability is viewed as a key strength in responding to new issues and opportunities. However, concerns about the Committee's capacity to initiate further workload have intensified.
- 3.46 Engagement levels with colleagues from both Welsh Government and from the RMAs contribute to maintaining momentum on the work programme. Increasing engagement with Government colleagues is highly valued, particularly in moving forward sub-committee work programmes. There remains frustration, however, at the lack of capacity in some areas in responding to the Committee's advice, which has been exacerbated by long timescales in filling vacancies, meaning that the sector is perpetually under-resourced.
- 3.47 As in the previous year, collaborative work during the year with NICW generated particular comment. The Committee's response to the NICW final report was seen as a particularly important output, notwithstanding that it diverted resources from other priorities. There was some frustration, however, at the lack of an opportunity to consider a draft report before it was finalised.
- 3.48 The increase to four sub-committees is seen as extending the Committee's capacity, and their outputs are highly valued. There are concerns, however, that more needs to be done to raise the visibility of the work of the Sub-Committees, both amongst Committee members themselves but also with wider stakeholders. The year has seen a number of significant consultation responses, and opportunities to influence policy, programmes, legislation and guidance within WG and other organisations through these responses continue to be regarded as of great importance.

## 4. **Looking Ahead**

- 4.1 Through 2025/26, the four meetings per annum of our full Committee will continue to alternate between physical and remote meetings. The meeting of the Committee in May 2024 takes place in Swansea, our first visit to the city since the Committee was formed in 2019. This will be followed by a remote meeting in September. In maintaining a three year forward work programme, the September meeting will advance the Committee's work programme into 2027-28. Our established Sub-Committees will also broadly follow a quarterly programme of remote meetings.
- 4.2 As noted in para 3.11, it is proposed to establish a Workforce Task and Finish Group, which will get underway in May 2025. It is envisaged that the Group will be working to develop proposals for consideration through budgetary planning processes for 2026-27. It is anticipated that the Group will be meeting on a monthly frequency in the first instance.

### **The Work Programme in 2025-26 and 2026-27**

- 4.3 Sections 2 and 3 of this report outline much detail in terms of how the Committee will be moving forward with its work themes. A key factor in shaping our work programme will be the Deputy First Minister's response to the NICW report. It is anticipated that the Committee and all of its Sub-Committees will need to review their work programmes in the light of its conclusions. With that caveat, key highlights for the year ahead are set out in the following paragraphs:

#### **Themes 1 & 2 – The National Strategy**

- 4.4 NRW's two-year Section 18 report will be reviewed in September 2025. Our review of the last Section 18 Report in September 2023 prompted a call for **a Refresh of the National Strategy**. NICW, in their recent report on flooding (para 2.10), called for **a new 30-year strategy**. Our Committee considered that the case for a longer term strategy was well-made, and welcomed this recommendation.
- 4.5 In his response to the NICW Report, the Deputy First Minister said:
- "I agree that having a long-term vision and strategic plan is essential for delivering longer term resilience and adaptation, but there is a balance to strike between a focus on setting that longer term vision and translating the vision into action on the ground and focus on delivering for our communities. The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion, published in October 2020 sets out our vision for flood risk management until 2030. It outlines the areas we expect our partners and ourselves to work towards over the statutory 10-year period but also includes policies extending to 100 years. I further published the Climate Adaptation Strategy for Wales in October 2024 which outlines our significant commitment to responding to the changing climate. Within the document, we recognised that flooding impacts every policy area. Nevertheless, reflecting on the most recent storm events over the winter, it is clear that a renewed conversation about flood risk management and building resilience in at risk communities is needed. A new vision and strategy are not required to stimulate that discussion or to set the direction emerging from it, but may offer a helpful way to frame such a dialogue .....Therefore, while I do not intend to produce a revised vision or strategy by 2026, I anticipate this will be an issue which will be returned to in the next Senedd."*

- 4.6 Our Committee looks forward to engaging in the proposed renewed conversation about flood risk management and building resilience in at risk communities. The consideration of NRW's Section 18 report in September 2025 will provide an opportunity to contribute to moving that conversation forward.

#### **Theme 4 – Resources**

- 4.7 The Resources Sub-Committee will continue to take forward the proposals set out in our **Resources Report**, but also as guided by the Minister. Working with the Programme Board to develop its role in leading a programme of resource improvement will continue as a key priority. The Skills & Capacity agenda will feature increasingly prominently with the inception of our Workforce Task and Finish Group. Other key targets for progress will include the dialogue with the insurance industry and broader stakeholders about the availability and affordability of flood insurance, and the role of the industry in property flood resilience. Discussions about partnership working, and about enhancing the roles of the regional groups, will also continue.

#### **Themes 5 & 7 – Legislative Change**

- 4.8 The former Minister's response to the Committee's **Legislative Change Report** will continue to shape the work programme for our Policy and Legislation Sub-Committee. Further developing the dialogue with the Law Commission will feature prominently in progressing this agenda. Many of the proposals in the NICW report would require legislative change, and the Sub-Committee will need to review its priorities thoroughly in the light of the Deputy First Minister's response to the report.

#### **Theme 6 – Working with Other Stakeholders**

- 4.9 Continuing collaboration with the **National Infrastructure Commission for Wales** over their recommendations on flooding will continue to feature prominently in our work programme, as both NICW and our Committee review the implications of the Deputy First Minister's response. Moving forward the dialogue on their Climate Conversations Research will also be a key priority. Continuing to work with **the regional groups** to develop their roles, particularly in the light of the NICW report and the Deputy First Minister's response, will need to be prioritised.

#### **Theme 8 – Coastal Adaptation Guidance**

- 4.10 After some initial progress by the Welsh Government in 2022, the preparation of this guidance, (targeted for completion in the National Strategy by 2022) has lost momentum. It is to be hoped that this will be re-invigorated during the course of the next two years, and that the Committee will have further opportunities to contribute to its development.

#### **Theme 9 – Research**

- 4.11 The Research Sub-Committee will maintain its focus on how Wales identifies its research needs and how these needs are delivered. The development of an agreed work programme for the Sub-Committee will be a key priority, while continuing to engage with the joint England and Wales FCERM Research and Development Programme.

#### **Theme 10 – Consultations**

- 4.12 A key consultation in the short term involves responding to NICW in the preparation of their Climate Conversations Research reports on Infrastructure Resilience, and on Engaging Communities in Climate Adaptation. In the longer term, there will be much Committee interest in the outcomes from previous

consultations, including those on the Sustainable Farming Scheme, and on the Environmental Governance White Paper.

**Theme 12 - Section 19 Reports**

- 4.13 The Section 19 Sub-Committee is undertaking a review of the Defra guidance against the Elwen Evans Report, including stakeholder consultation through the summer of 2025. The aim is to work towards preparing a draft guidance document by July 2026, and, following a further round of consultation, a final draft by December 2026.



## **Annex 1: Committee Terms of Reference**

(References to “Regulations” refer to the Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee for Wales Regulations 2017).<sup>17</sup>

### **Purpose**

1. The Committee has been established by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Section 81. Its purpose is to advise the Welsh Ministers on matters relating to flood and coastal erosion risk management.

### **Scope (regulation 8)**

2. The scope of the Committee is to advise on any matters relating to flood and coastal erosion risk management.

### **Membership (regulations 3-5)**

3. The Committee shall be made up of a Chair and up to 14 Committee members who are either an expert on matters deemed relevant by Welsh Ministers, or a nominated representative of an organisation associated with flood and coastal erosion risk management.

### **Duties (regulation 9)**

4. The Committee must advise the Welsh Ministers on:
- i. The management of risk from all sources of flooding and coastal erosion;
  - ii. Wider resilience and emergency issues from a flood risk management perspective;
  - iii. The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management; and
  - iv. Work being carried out by flood and coastal erosion risk management organisations.

### **Powers**

5. The Committee may:
- i. Establish its own programme of advisory work on flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales (regulation 10);
  - ii. Advise Welsh risk management authorities on the management of risk from all sources of flooding and coastal erosion (regulation 10);
  - iii. Advise Welsh risk management authorities on wider resilience and emergency issues from a flood risk management perspective (regulation 10);
  - iv. Advise Welsh risk management authorities on the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (regulation 10);
  - v. Enter into agreements with other bodies, subject to the approval of the Welsh Ministers (regulation 10);
  - vi. Appoint members of the Committee as its representatives on other fora or committees.

### **Meetings (regulation 11)**

6. Meetings shall be held at intervals of no more than 6 months.

---

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/827/contents/made>

7. The Committee is a public body within the meaning of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. Accordingly meetings of the Committee will be open to the public [Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Section 81 (3) and Schedule 2 Part 4].

### **Reports (regulation 12)**

8. The Committee must submit a report to the Welsh Ministers on the exercise and performance of its functions for each period of 12 months, following the appointment of members to the Committee.

### **Procedure (regulation 13)**

9. The Committee may regulate its own procedure, including making provision in relation to the quorum for its meetings (subject to the approval of the Welsh Ministers), and its voting procedure.

### **Sub-Committees (regulation 14)**

10. The Committee may establish sub-committees by majority vote, to meet on the direction of the Committee. The Committee may regulate the procedure of any sub-committee, including its quorum and voting procedure. The terms of reference of a sub-committee are subject to the approval of the Welsh Ministers.

### **Communications & Working with others**

11. Requests for interviews should be sent to the Minister for Environment in the first instance via the Secretariat. If the Minister is unavailable, the Chair may be asked to speak on behalf of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee.

### **Programme of work**

12. The annual programme of work will be agreed with Welsh Ministers to ensure it includes current priorities.

## **Annex 2: Remuneration & Allowances**

The Chair is entitled to remuneration on a per-day basis. Other Members of the Committee are not entitled to remuneration, but, as with the Chair, they are entitled to claim for travel and subsistence expenses. Expenditure under these headings is set out below at current prices.

£	Remuneration	Expenses	Total
2019-20	14,295	2,279	16,574
2020-21	14,520	80	14,600
2021-22	16,020	175	16,195
2022-23	17,203	129	17,332
2023-24	20,966	674	21,640
2024-25	23,759	643	24,402