



Representing Drainage  
Water Level & Flood Risk  
Management Authorities

**CIWEM** Chartered Institution of  
Water and Environmental  
Management



## All Party Parliamentary Group *for* Sustainable Flood and Drought Management

### Minutes of the Sustainable Flood & Drought APPG – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Attendees:

Lee Pitcher MP  
Charlotte Cane MP  
Ros Savage MP  
Kevin McKenna MP  
Adrian Ramsay MP  
Robin Hunter-Clarke on behalf of George Freeman MP

Innes Thomson (ADA)  
Cat Moncrieff (CIWEM)  
Alistair Chisholm (CIWEM)  
Jude Noro (CIWEM)  
Rob Allen (Policy Connect)  
Joe Eaton (PS to Lee Pitcher)

Apologies:

The Earl of Caithness  
The Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP  
Joy Morrissey MP  
Sarah Green MP

Draft minutes of meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October were taken as a correct record.

#### **Matters arising**

Two actions from the previous meeting remain outstanding, namely;

- Secretariat to provide information on the recent numbers of recordable flood and drought events.
- Secretariat to try to obtain a total money map for Government-funded flood and water resource management, covering both capital and revenue spending (2023-24)



Innes Thomson reported that he had asked for information through normal routes but a response had not been made to date. He suggested that the questions would need to be re-made using a Freedom of Information request. This was supported.

### **Purpose of the Meeting**

As planned, the general purpose of the meeting was to discuss and agree an outline workplan for the APPG based on the work note shared with Officers and Members at the meeting. The following minutes represent the revised version of that work note;

### **Detail**

The subject areas for put forward at the last meeting were;

- Sustainable drainage and water resource management
- A catchment-based approach
- Partnership Working
- Maintenance
- Funding

Through the Chair, Officers and Members confirmed the above list for future consideration. Based on various timetabled work set out by Government, especially for the first quarter of 2025, it was agreed that priority would be given to discussions as follows;

1. Future funding is to be considered as part of the Spending Review requested by Chancellor Reeves and work will be taking place on that in the first quarter of 2025. With specific interest in the allocations of funding to maintenance works, it is suggested that the APPG schedules a meeting in January 2025 to discuss and submit ideas to the EA and Defra. It is proposed to invite John Russon, the EA's Director in charge of the Spending Review for FCERM to talk to the APPG at that meeting.
2. Floods Minister Hardy has asked for a review of the funding formula with consultation expected in Q1. It is suggested therefore that the APPG schedule a meeting in February to cover benefits and the funding formula with the intention of being able to submit a response into the funding formula consultation. Officers and Members agreed that it would be helpful to invite a number of knowledgeable people on the subject to inform the meeting. It was agreed that someone with Coastal experience should be included for that meeting.
3. Sir John Cunliffe has been appointed by Government to lead a review of water regulation which will initially report in late spring. It is therefore recommended that the APPG meets in March 2025 to consider an input to that review, with an emphasis on how the water sector can better fit in with a catchment-based approach to water level and flood risk management. Officers and Members suggested that we directly invite Sir Jon Cunliffe to address the APPG. Chair will be pleased to issue an invitation to Sir Jon.



4. It was suggested the next meeting is scheduled in May to consider the issue of a catchment based approach with specific interest given to surface water flooding and addressing this through sustainable drainage approach. We would like to gather evidence of surface water flooding incidences in constituencies throughout catchments and how these have/could be addressed through sustainable drainage.
5. Officers and Members agreed that a meeting in June would be welcome to discuss partnership working and the question of multiple agencies involved in work and the interaction between them.
6. Officers and Members specifically asked that the subject of how sustainable flood and drought management affects farming was scheduled for discussion and it was agreed to include this in a meeting to be scheduled in July, ahead of the summer recess.

A recommendation was made to the APPG Officers and Members that the EFRA Committee should be invited to have a representative attending the APPG. It was pointed out that Sarah Dyke MP, who has indicated her desire to be a member of the APPG, is also a member of the EFRA committee and so would be an ideal person to be the liaison point between both the APPG and EFRA Committee. **Action on the Chair to invite Sarah if she wishes to undertake that liaison role.**

Looking forward into the autumn, it was suggested that a specific meeting was allocated to the use of nature based solutions. It was also suggested that the APPG for Flooding & Flooded Communities be invited to hold a joint meeting with this APPG to look at the subject of Community based flood resilience. **The Chair to action issuing an invitation to Helen Morgan MP**, Chair of the APPG for Flooding & Flooded Communities, and share this APPG's proposed work plan with her.

It was also suggested and supported by Officers and Members that time for a parliamentary debate on SuDS be requested, asking for at least a 60-minute debate. Chair to action and, given the possible short notice for agreement for a debate, suitable information needs to be prepared in advance to inform the debate. Innes Thomson suggested that we can ask for help with the necessary information from the Association of Suds Authorities and CIWEM also has documents available to inform the discussion. The title of the debate is to be agreed with APPG Officers.

### **Agreed Actions**

- Secretariat to issue an FOI to EA for the 2 questions outstanding from previous meeting
- Chair and Officers to decide on dates for Jan, Feb, March, June and July meetings and advise secretariat.
- In the name of the Chair, Secretariat to prepare a letter of invitation to John Russon to attend the proposed January meeting to discuss the spending review plans.
- ADA and CIWEM to suggest possible names as expert opinion to be invited to February meeting.
- In the name of the Chair, Secretariat to prepare a letter of invitation to Sir Jon Cunliffe to attend the proposed March APPG meeting.



- Officers and Members to gather evidence of surface water flooding in their constituencies for discussion at the May meeting.
- In the name of the Chair, Secretariat to prepare a letter inviting Sarah Dyke MP to be our point of liaison with the EFA Committee.
- In the name of the Chair, Secretariat to prepare a letter to Helen Morgan MP, Chair of the Flooding and Flooded Communities APPG inviting her to consider a joint meeting with this APPG in the autumn and share this APPG's intended work plan.
- ADA and CIWEM to reflect on documents/evidence required to support a Parliamentary debate on SuDS and Chair to make appropriate request(s) for a 60 minute debate.

### **For General Information**

Parliamentary recess dates in 2025 are as follows;

- 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024 to 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025
- 13<sup>th</sup> Feb to 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025
- 8<sup>th</sup> Apr to 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025
- 1<sup>st</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> Jun 2025
- From 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 ]