

# MINUTES

**Meeting: Environment Committee**

**Date: Thursday 30 September 2021**

**Time: 10.00 am**

**Place: Chamber, City Hall, The Queen's Walk,  
London, SE1 2AA**

Copies of the minutes may be found at:

[www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-committees](http://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-committees)

Present:

Zack Polanski AM (Chair)

Tony Devenish AM (Deputy Chairman)

Léonie Cooper AM

Emma Best AM

Hina Bokhari AM

Joanne McCartney AM

Sakina Sheikh AM

## **1 Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements (Item 1)**

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

## **2 Declarations of Interest (Item 2)**

2.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

2.2 **Resolved:**

- (a) That the list of offices held by Assembly Members, as set out in the table at Agenda Item 2, be noted as disclosable pecuniary interests.**
- (b) That the declaration of a non-pecuniary interest by Tony Devenish AM, as a former employee of Thames Water, be noted.**

### **3 Minutes (Item 3)**

#### **3.1 Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2021 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

### **4 Summary List of Actions (Item 4)**

4.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

#### **4.2 Resolved:**

**That the completed and ongoing actions arising from previous meetings of the Environment Committee, as well as additional correspondence sent and received by the Chair be noted.**

### **5 Action Taken Under Delegated Authority (Item 5)**

5.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

#### **5.2 Resolved:**

**That the action taken by the Chair of the Committee under delegated authority, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, be noted, namely to:**

- (a) Agree a letter to the Mayor of London on realising the opportunities from COP26, as attached at Appendix 1; and**
- (b) Agree a response to the Department for Transport's consultation on night flight restrictions, as attached at Appendix 2.**

### **6 Climate Adaptation & Climate Risks in London (Item 6)**

6.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat as background to putting questions on climate adaptation and climate risks to the following invited guests:

- Professor Jason Lowe OBE, Head of Climate Services, Met Office;
- Alex Nickson, Wastewater Systems Strategy Manager, Thames Water;
- Charlotte Wood, London Area Director, Environment Agency;
- Lilli Matson, Chief Safety, Health and Environment Officer, Transport for London (TfL); and
- Peter Daw, Assistant Director for Environment and Energy, and Head of Climate Change, Greater London Authority (GLA).

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- 6.2 A transcript of the discussion is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 6.3 During the course of the discussion, the Committee requested the following additional information from the Wastewater Systems Strategy Manager, Thames Water:
- A copy of the independent review of Thames Waters' response to the July 2021 flooding events; and
  - The Terms of Reference of that independent review.
- 6.4 The Committee also requested that:
- The London Area Director, Environment Agency, provide a copy of the July 2021 post-incident review;
  - The Assistant Director for Environment and Energy, and Head of Climate Change, GLA, provide plans for implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems solutions and infrastructure around hospitals in London, in response to localised flooding which caused operational issues and forced closures at Whipps Cross Hospital and Newham Hospital in July 2021; and
  - The Chief Safety, Health and Environment Officer, TfL, provide further information on means of increasing urban tree cover on the main road network.
- 6.5 At the end of the discussion, the Chair thanked the guests for attending and for their answers to the Committee's questions.
- 6.6 The Chair welcomed the second panel of guests:
- Chris Lee, Director of Environment & Regeneration, London Borough of Merton;
  - Councillor Johnny Thalassites, Lead Member for Planning, Place and Environment, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea; and
  - Patricia Cuervo, Senior Flood and Water Management Officer, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
- 6.7 A transcript of the discussion is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 6.8 During the course of the discussion, the Director of Environment & Regeneration agreed to provide feedback to the Committee on whether there had been any instances where the Planning Enforcement Team (London Borough of Merton) had investigated a development in respect of breaching non-permeable surface conditions granted by permitted development rights.
- 6.9 At the end of the discussion, the Chair thanked the guests for attending and for their answers to the Committee's questions.

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**6.10 Resolved:**

- (a) That the report and discussion be noted.**
- (b) That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the meeting.**

**7 Environment Committee Work Programme (Item 7)**

7.1 The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Secretariat.

**7.2 Resolved:**

**That the work programme and meeting dates be noted.**

**8 Date of Next Meeting (Item 8)**

8.1 The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for 15 November 2021 at 10.00am in the Chamber, City Hall.

**9 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent (Item 9)**

9.1 There were no items of business that the Chair considered to be urgent.

**10 Close of Meeting**

10.1 The meeting ended at 12.49pm.

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Chair

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Date

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