

MDA No.: 1333

Title: Climate Adaptation and Risks in London

1. Executive Summary

1.1 At the Environment Committee meeting on 30 September 2021 the Committee resolved that:

Authority be delegated to the Chairman, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the discussion.

1.2 Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed the Committee's letter to Ian Marchant, Chairman of the Thames Water Board, regarding climate adaptation and risks in London, as attached at **Appendix 1**. The Chairman of the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee, as well as party Group Lead Members of that committee, were also consulted.

2. Decision

2.1 **That the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, agree the Committee's letter to the Thames Water Chair on climate adaptation and risks in London, as attached at Appendix 1.**

Assembly Member

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature: 

Printed Name: **Zack Polanski AM**

Date: **21 February 2022**

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 The terms of reference for this investigation were agreed by the Chair, in consultation with relevant party Lead Group Members and Deputy Chairs, under the standing authority granted to Chairs of Committees and Sub-Committees. Officers confirm that the letter falls within these terms of reference.
- 3.2 The exercise of delegated authority will be formally noted at the Environment Committee's next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): F.Bywaters

Printed Name: Fiona Bywaters

Date: 21 February 2022

Telephone Number: 07825 028 318

Financial Implications: NOT REQUIRED

Note: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.

Signature (Finance): Not Required

Printed Name:

Date:

Telephone Number:

Legal Implications:

The Chair of the Environment Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal):



Printed Name: Rebecca Arnold, pp Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer

Date: 17 February 2022

Telephone Number: 020 7983 6550

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- Tony Devenish AM (Deputy Chairman)
- Léonie Cooper AM
- Hina Bokhari AM
- Susan Hall (Chairman, Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee)
- Nicholas Rogers AM
- Anne Clarke AM

4. Public Access to Information

- 4.1 Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.
- 4.2 If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.
- 4.3 **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 - Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If yes, until what date:

Part 2 – Sensitive Information:

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form? NO

Lead Officer / Author

Signature:




Printed Name: Ana Maria Noguera

Job Title: Senior Policy Advisor

Date: 21 February 2022

Telephone Number: 07894954256

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature: 

Printed Name: Helen Ewen

Date: 21 February 2022

Telephone Number: 07729 108986

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Zack Polanski AM
Chair of the Environment Committee

Ian Marchant
Thames Water Chair
Thames Water Utilities Limited

By email

22 February 2022

Dear Ian,

During the summer of 2021, the effects of increased rainfall and rising temperatures resulted in flooding that affected many parts of London. On 27 July 2021, the Mayor held a roundtable with stakeholders including London Councils and the Environment Agency to identify what more can be done to “urgently tackle flooding and the other impacts of climate change”, in the light of these and other flooding incidents in London, and considering the London Environment Strategy which reflects the adaptations needed in response to climate change.

An investigation into climate adaptation and climate risks in London was held by the Environment Committee on 30 September 2021, including a review of the summer flooding in London last year. One recommendation from this investigation was that Thames Water should provide the Committee with an assessment of its drainage network’s ability to deal with heavy rainfall events in London, and its plans to ensure its network keeps pace with the potentially increased risk of these events in the future.

In addition, on 21 October 2021, the Fire, Resilience, and Emergency Planning Committee held a meeting where the summer flooding was also discussed. At this meeting Alex Nickson mentioned that more is needed to help Londoners understand the increasing risk of sewer flooding.

The need for a long-term solution was also highlighted at the meeting. Alex Nickson suggested that a multi-agency collaboration was needed, including a tiered, multi-level resilience approach, starting with the sewers, then looking at surface permeability and the resilience of buildings to flooding, in order to come up with a better plan for dealing with situations of this kind in the future.

Thames Water kindly provided an initial response to this Committee on 13 January 2022, informing that the independent London Flood Review is expected to be completed in March 2022, and that it should establish to what extent the data provides insights about the floods in July. Thames Water also offered to put us in touch with the Review Team, which we would appreciate.

Moving forward, there is a common aim from both Committees (Environment, and Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning) to examine the flooding mechanism and the performance of drainage and sewerage systems, along with any other flood risk management measures that are relevant, in order to understand how London can become more resilient for future rainfall events of this type.

We would therefore appreciate it if you could confirm when you can provide us with the following:

1. The interim findings of the London Flood Review, and the final report once it is ready.
2. Details of the concrete actions that Thames Water are already undertaking (while waiting for the report) to strengthen London's flooding infrastructure against future flash flooding episodes.
3. The prevention and mitigation plan that Thames Water is considering for potential future events.
4. The work that Thames Water is undertaking to respond to sewer flooding risk.
5. The progress you are making with your Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP).
6. The contribution that you see sustainable drainage making to reductions in surface water flooding.
7. How Thames Water is working with partners to drive multi-agency collaboration to cope with flood events and how this will help deliver a long-term solution for London.

I would appreciate your response to this points by 18 March 2022.

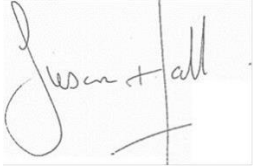
Thank you for your consideration.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zack Polanski". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Zack Polanski AM

Chair of the Environment Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a vertical line through the 'H'.

Susan Hall

Chairman of the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee

CC: Alex Nickson, Wastewater Systems Strategy Manager, Thames Water.

Chris Shipway, Head of Public Affairs, Thames Water