

Minutes of Adaptation Committee Meeting

Present:

Baroness Brown (Chair), Ben Caldecott, Mike Davies, Richard Dawson, Nathalie Seddon, Chris Stark, Swenja Surminski

Member interests: www.theccc.org.uk/about/transparency

Date: 16th December 2022, 10:00-14:40

Held: Virtual meeting by Zoom

Climate Change Committee

1 Victoria Street,
Westminster, London,
SW1H 0ET

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No new conflicts of interests were raised. The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.

New members of the secretariat were introduced while departing colleagues were thanked.

The secretariat updated the Committee on the energy resilience work that will feed into a report to be published in the last week of February.

1. Progress Report updates: Intro and cross-cutting

The secretariat presented the cross-cutting and overarching parts of the UK progress report. It is to be published week commencing 27th March. The Committee agreed that a response to NAP3 should be released in December 2023. It was also agreed to explicitly link to the weather the UK has experienced this year and to frame the policy context that plans are not enough, there needs to be more policy action. There was also suggestion that cross-cutting sections should appear higher in the order of the report. Suggestion to call it the 'England' progress report, rather than UK.

2. Progress Report Updates: Water, Energy, Telecoms & ICT

The secretariat presented on updates to the England Progress Report on water, energy and telecoms & ICT systems. The Committee discussed whether water quality should be included in the water system, the potential to measure water consumption at a more granular level and provide that information to consumers. On energy, the committee discussed having a minimum resilience standard and on Telecoms & ICT, The Committee discussed adding information on recent weather-related outages of the system (anecdotal) and the concern around increased centrality of IT in day-to-day life.

3. Progress Report Updates: Transport, Towns & Cities, Buildings

The secretariat presented on updates to the England Progress Report on the Transport system and the Towns & Cities system. The Committee discussed whether wildfires and the risks they pose to built-up areas should be included and how to incorporate urban overheating into the system. The secretariat also presented the Buildings system. The Committee discussed having a Decent Home Standard.

4. Progress Report Updates: Nature, Working land and seas, food

The secretariat presented on updates to the England Progress Report on nature and working land and sea. The Committee discussed how NBS should be included in the nature system (is an enabler and outcome) and whether devolution should be another cross-cutting theme. The secretariat also presented on the Food system. The Committee discussed framing it around the role food inflation is playing in overall inflation and suggested talking to experts outside of the committee to get steers.

5. Progress Report Updates: Health, Community, Business & finance

The secretariat presented on the Health system. The Committee discussed including recent health events (e.g. Dengue fever in France) and that others are already monitoring them. The secretariat presented on Communities. The Committee discussed how best to integrate education into the system in how the system will have to adapt to changing climate (i.e. children not sitting exams in too-hot conditions), and in its role for educating children and their parents. The secretariat on updates to the England Progress Report on Business and Finance. The Committee discussed the role of the financial services sector, how policies can be developed learning from other areas and why SMEs were featured heavily compared to large corporates. They also discussed the links between business and infrastructure.

6. Finance report: summary discussion

The secretariat presented a summary of the upcoming Finance Report due to be published 1st February 2023.

7. AOB

No additional issues were raised.