

## **RCP (09) 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

### **ROYAL COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION**

#### **Minutes of a meeting held from 3rd to 4th September 2009 at the Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, Edinburgh**

##### **Chair**

Sir John Lawton

##### **Members**

Professor Nick Cumpsty  
Dr Ian Graham-Bryce  
Professor Maria Lee  
Professor Peter Matthews  
Professor Michael Roberts  
Professor Lynda Warren

Professor Michael Depledge  
Professor Jeffrey Jowell  
Professor Peter Liss  
Professor Steve Rayner  
Professor Joanne Scott

##### **Economic Advisor to the Commission**

Professor Gordon MacKerron

##### **Secretariat**

John Roberts  
Stuart Matheson  
Laura Pleasants  
Rachael Yokoo-Laurence

Jon Freeman  
Noel Nelson  
Yolanda Rizzi

A list of all ACTIONS agreed at this meeting is at **Annex 1**.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Item 1: Preliminary business**

1. Apologies were received from *Professor Petts*.
2. *The Chairman* reported that *Professor Nick Cumpsty* had resigned from the Commission, and thanked him for the valuable contribution he had made.
3. *The Chairman* welcomed *John Roberts* to his first meeting as Secretary to the Commission. *John Roberts* reported that *Jon Freeman* had reached the end for his secondment and would be returning to the Ministry of Defence on 14 September. *Laura Pleasants* would be taking her post as Assistant Secretary on promotion, and he would be recruiting a new Dissemination Manager. *The Chairman* thanked *Jon Freeman* for his contribution to the work of the Commission. The Chairman welcomed *Stuart Matheson*, who has joined the team working on the demographic study.

## **Item 2: RCP(09)6<sup>th</sup>: Draft minutes of the July 2009 meeting**

4. The minutes were approved by the Members.

### **ADAPTATION STUDY**

## **Item 3: RCP(09)415: Project Status Report**

5. *The Chairman* noted the project status report. It was agreed that the schedule for the study may need to be adjusted again in light of the amount of work still required to complete the adaptation report. It was noted that both *Jon Freeman* and *Rachael Yokoo-Laurence* are due shortly to return to their home departments.

## **Item 4: RCP(09)420: Chapter 4**

6. *Jon Freeman* introduced this item. The Commission discussed the potential recommendations and how they should be based on a clear trail of evidence through the preceding draft chapters. The text of the draft chapters will be revised in light of the discussion. *Action point:*
  - Secretariat to re-draft chapters of the Adaptation report.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

## **Item 5: RCP(09)814: Preparation for guests - SEPA**

## **Item 6: Guests - SEPA**

7. Dave Gorman, the Head of Environmental Strategy at the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), and Peter Singleton, the Manager of SEPA's Environmental Futures and Trends Unit, gave a brief overview of SEPA's functions and their own areas of responsibilities. They drew Members' attention to the Scottish Government's Economic Strategy, its Zero Waste Policy and the Climate Change Bill to explain the context in which they were operating. On climate change, they noted that, though much of the emphasis to date had been on mitigation, they were optimistic that there would be increasing focus on adaptation.
8. In the subsequent discussion, it was noted that, for Scotland, population growth itself was likely have a less significant environmental impact than the expected increase in the number of single person households. The guests suggested a number of sources of further information that would be of interest for the Commission's study on demographic change. In response to questions, they identified zero waste and consumption and production as possible topics for a future Commission study. *Action point:*
  - Secretariat to follow up the sources of information on demographic change
9. Over lunch, John Mason (the Director of Environmental Quality) and Deborah Smith (the Deputy Director for Culture, External Affairs and Tourism) in the Scottish Government explained the aims of the

Government Economic Strategy and, in particular, the target on population growth, to meet which would probably require a net inward migration of around 20,000 individuals each year.

### **SHORT STUDY ON LIGHT**

#### **Item 7: RCP(09)511: Artificial Light study**

10. Members discussed this and agreed that a small group of Members could take forward the finalisation on the report in light of the peer review comments received. Members agreed that the group could sign off the report on behalf of the Commission. Regarding launch arrangements, the Commission were keen to seek advice from Fiona Fox at the Science Media Centre. Professor Lee noted that the section on nuisance needed some re-wording and offered to provide text.

*Action point:*

- Secretariat to contact the Science Media Centre regarding the launch of the light report.
- Professor Lee to provide new text on nuisance for the light report.

### **DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE STUDY**

#### **Item 8: RCP(09)815: Project status report**

11. *Yolanda Rizzi* introduced this paper. She drew attention to the additional tabled documents, notably letters commenting on the scope of the study from Defra, from Professor Joel E Cohen and from the Scottish Government and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) News Releases of 27 August. *Yolanda* reported that Roma Chappell, the Deputy Director of the ONS Centre for Demography, would be a guest at the Commission's October meeting.

#### **Item 9: RCP(09)816: Report on Oxford Seminar, 7 July 2009**

12. *Yolanda Rizzi* introduced this paper which summarised the discussion on migration held in Oxford in July. *The Chairman* said that he had found the seminar informative and made reference to the points illustrated in the annexed presentations from Professors Castles and Keith. Members noted that household structure, ageing and spatial distribution were emerging as key areas for study.

#### **Item 10: RCP(09)817: Note on Government Strategy on Ageing**

13. Members noted this paper. *Yolanda Rizzi* reported that officials from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) had expressed an interest in the Commission's work: she would be meeting them in September to discuss how they might contribute to the study.

**Item 11: RCP(09)818: Demographic Trends in Scotland – Background note**

14. *Yolanda Rizzi* introduced this paper. She noted that the latest projections suggested that the number of households in Scotland was expected to increase by an average of 17,600 each year to 2031. The Secretariat intended to prepare an analysis showing the trends in all four of the UK nations in due course.

**Item 12: RCP(09)819: Preparation for guests – Professor Susan Deacon and Professor Phil Hanlon**

15. Members discussed a number of issues related to the demographic change study with Professor Susan Deacon, Professor of Social Change at Queen Margaret University, and Professor Phil Hanlon, Professor of Public Health at the University of Glasgow. Among the areas covered were: the compression of morbidity, the health impacts of psycho-social reactions to public events and the need for a change in consciousness to cope with future challenges.

**ADAPTATION STUDY**

**Item 13: RCP(09)418: Chapter 1**

16. This item was not discussed.

**Item 14: RCP(09)413: Planning workshop report**

**Item 15: RCP(09)414: Helping to deliver climate change adaptation through the UK planning system**

17. *Jon Freeman* introduced these papers. The Commission agreed that both reports would provide useful material to support the Adaptation report. Professor Lee agreed to develop the material into some text that could be included in the Adaptation report. *Action point:*

- Professor Lee to prepare some text derived from the planning reports for inclusion in the Adaptation report.

**Item 16: RCP(09)111: Preparation for dinner guest – Professor Maggie Gill**

18. Members noted this paper.

**DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE STUDY**

**Item 17: RCP(09)820: Discussion of key issues for the study  
RCP(09)821: Correspondence from OPT**

19. Members used these papers as an aid to discussing the key issues for the study in three smaller groups. The conclusions from each group were reported and discussed. Members generally felt that the subject was so complex and wide-ranging that they would need more

information and more time to reflect before deciding the specific questions on which formal evidence should be sought.

20. It was agreed that evidence should be collected in two stages, so that a first tranche of baseline data on the most significant demographic changes and environmental impacts could inform a second more detailed call for evidence. *Action point:*
- Secretariat to draft a letter inviting the submission of preliminary information, for clearance by Members

**Item 18: RCP(09)822: Preparation for Guests – Professor Allan Findlay, Cecilia MacIntyre and Esther Roughsedge**

21. Cecilia MacIntyre, Head of Population and Migration Statistics at the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) gave an overview of population and migration trends in Scotland, including the distribution between rural and urban areas and a comparison between Scotland and other parts of the UK. A copy of her presentation is attached as Annex A.
22. Esther Roughsedge, from GROS's Households Estimates and Projections team explained how household projections are produced and outlined the latest data. She highlighted the projected increase in the number of single person households, particularly among older people. A copy of her presentation is attached as Annex B.
23. Professor Allan Findlay, Professor of Population Geography at the University of Dundee, gave a three part presentation covering i) the debate surrounding projections of the likely numbers of environmental refugees, ii) spatial dimensions of population change in Scotland and iii) research into the selective flooding impacts on different socio-demographic groups. He also explained the role of the ESRC Centre on Population Change to be launched in October. A copy of his presentation is attached as Annex C.

**ADAPTATION STUDY**

**Item 19: RCP(09)419: Chapter 3**

24. This item was not discussed.

**Item 20: RCP(09)417: Chapter 2**

25. This item was not discussed.

**Item 21: RCP(09)416: National Audit Office Briefing**

26. This item was not discussed.

**Item 22: RCP(09)404: Title of the report**

27. This item was not discussed.

**Item 23: RCP(09)403: Quotes for the report**

28. This item was not discussed.

**Item 24: RCP(09)112: Draft cover for the report**

29. Members suggested some changes to the design which will be addressed by the Secretariat in conjunction with the designer.

**Item 25: RCP(09)410: Local Authorities' new roles on Flood Risk Management and Sustainable Drainage**

30. This item was noted.

**Item 26: RCP(09)411: Comments from the Water Industry Commission for Scotland (WICS)**

31. This item was noted.

**Item 27: RCP(09)412: CLG – Supplementary comments on Compulsory Purchase Orders**

32. This item was noted.

## ANNEX 1

### List of Actions agreed at the Commission's meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Action Number	Action	By Whom
1	Secretariat to re-draft chapters of the Adaptation report.	Secretariat
2	Secretariat to contact the Science Media Centre regarding the launch of the light report.	Secretariat
3	Professor Lee to provide new text on nuisance for the light report.	Professor Lee
4	Professor Lee to prepare some text derived from the planning reports for inclusion in the Adaptation report.	Professor Lee
5	Secretariat to follow up the sources of information on demographic change suggested by SEPA.	Secretariat
6	Secretariat to draft a letter inviting the submission of preliminary information, for clearance by Members	Secretariat