

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) will be held online at 12 Noon BST on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026 to consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolutions. The AGM will last approximately 45 minutes.

#### Ordinary Resolutions

1. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025
2. To receive and adopt the 2025 Annual Report
3. To receive and adopt the accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025
4. To authorise the Council to appoint auditors for the fiscal year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026

#### Elections

5. To elect members of Council (Articles 26-30)

*Standing:*

*Sarah Horrocks*

*Eric Valentine*

Voting is online through the [Members' Portal](#) of the IES website.



#### Adam Donnan

CEO [By Order of the Board]  
April 2026

#### Relevant Documents

- (a) Minutes of 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting (p.2)
- (b) [2025 Annual report](#)
- (c) [2024-25 Accounts](#) (pdf)
- (d) [Biographies of candidates standing for election 2026](#) (pdf)

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A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England No 01053508. Registered Charity No 277611

**Auditors:** Godfrey Wilson, 5th Floor Mariner House, 62 Prince Street, Bristol, BS1 4QD

**Bankers:** Co-operative Bank, Business Direct, PO BOX 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

**Governing Document:** Articles of Association (2019)

### **Minutes of the AGM held at 12 Noon, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025, Online Zoom Meeting**

Bernard Devereux (BD) welcomed attendees to the 52<sup>nd</sup> IES AGM. He explained that questions could be asked through the Q&A function and encouraged members who had not voted yet to do so through the voting form in the Members' Area.

#### **Chair's Review of the Year**

BD noted that this was his first AGM since his election as Chair. He outlined his standout features of 2025: the broad range of activities; continued growth in membership; number of members getting Chartered and the number of programmes accredited through CEDHE; the growth in income and capital reserve; and the Communities continuing to thrive, highlighting the launch of the Environmental Policy Implementation Community (EPIC).

BD observed that the UK suffered significant financial shocks in 2024, most notably with high inflation. Despite this, the financial health of the Institution is strong.

He noted that the UK Government has set ambitious development targets, particularly around housing, but felt it regrettable that senior policy leaders seem to see relaxing environmental controls as a way to cut costs. He underscored that environmental legislation was being tweaked with alarming regularity, and that question marks hang over fundamental pieces of legislation like the Habitats Regulations.

Despite this sombre outlook, he felt that the IES is making successes. These successes are the successes of our members who work through our Communities. He concluded by urging members to get involved, as "together we can make a difference".

#### **CEO's Reflections on 2024 & Plans for 2025**

Adam Donnan (AD) highlighted that preparing for the AGM is a good opportunity to reflect on how much is achieved by a comparatively small staff team. He thanked the staff for their dedication and expertise, and underlined the exceptional value of IES membership, which translates as just over £1 an event for Full Members.

He recapped that 2024 had seen the launch of a new three-year strategy – Enabling interdisciplinary solutions through science and connection. He highlighted the four new principles that came out of the workshops held as part of our rebranding work. Some of the key themes within the strategy are a focus on interdisciplinary working between the committees and developing competency frameworks. He encouraged members to read the full strategy on the website.

He showcased the new IES branding and its design elements. This has now been rolled out across the IES reports. He discussed some 2024 policy reports in greater depth, recalling the seven discussion events held with hundreds of environmental professionals over the period of the UK general election, which led to a message to the new government. He outlined the reports that members can enjoy in 2026, and the Essential Environmental policy bulletin, launched last month. This is a new member service providing policy updates and interpretation.

Along with updates to the IES branding, new or updated logos were developed for FWR, EPIC, and our accreditation scheme. A new website for the Foundation for Water Research launched in September 2024 and he highlighted the breadth of publications on this site.

The final stage of rolling out the new branding is a new IES website, which will be launched later in 2026, providing a step change in how the IES interacts with members.

He recapped the number of organisations who have joined the IES family over the past few years, emphasising that expanding the IES family through mergers and amalgamation had not been part of our strategy. Instead, this emerged as a natural response to the evolving needs of the sector. He felt that each addition had strengthened the IES's ability to deliver its mission, and by coming together, a more resilient, collaborative, and impactful organisation had emerged.

He reviewed the work of EPIC and paid tribute to Ellie Savage and the team for making this a success. He recalled his dismay at the falling number of IES local authority members over his tenure at the IES due to funding pressures in local government. He was pleased that the EPIC membership model and useful outputs were reversing this.

He discussed the journals published in 2024 and the themes planned for 2025.

He summarised that 2024 had been a strong year for the IES and there is much to look forward to in 2025. This was only possible through the contributions of an engaged membership and the over 400 individuals that volunteer for the IES.

### **Treasurer's Update**

Ian Byrne (IB) gave a review of the 2023-24 accounts. Expenditure was higher than it has been historically because of the costs of developing the branding and website, but also because we continue to take on more activities through EPIC and FWR. The team worked hard to keep costs down and membership fee increases lower than inflation. Most of the expenditure is on staff and overheads, as they are the ones who manage the Communities, run the 110 events, and pull together the policy outputs.

He put these figures in the context of the last 6 years, showing a long pattern of increasing income and expenditure. He displayed a bar chart that showed income and expenditure. Expenditure is higher than regular income, partly because of exceptional one-off costs to do with the website and branding, but also because some of this expenditure is supported by investment income from the FWR grants.

The balance sheet shows a strong financial situation. He outlined the ethical policies and investment strategy behind our investments.

[A recording of the Chair, CEO and Treasurer parts of the AGM](#)

### **Questions**

There was a question about whether more mergers were planned. AD responded that none were planned, but his analysis of the sector was that it was still too fragmented so would remain open to discussions.

In response to a question about Communities recruiting for their steering committees, he noted that the Marine & Coastal Science Community and Land Condition Early Careers Network were looking for steering committee members. Others open throughout the year, so members should keep an eye on the newsletter for chances to get involved.

### **Voting on the Resolutions**

All resolutions were proposed by Jim Longhurst and seconded by John Baines.

**1. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024**  
87 votes for, 11 abstentions, 0 against | Minutes approved.

**2. To receive and adopt the 2024 Annual Report**

94 votes for, 8 abstentions, 0 against | Report adopted.

**3. To adopt the audited accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

91 votes for, 7 abstentions, 0 against | Accounts adopted.

**4. To authorise the Council to appoint Accountants for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

95 votes for, 3 abstentions, 0 against | Council authorised to appoint accountants.

**5. To elect members of Council (Articles 26-30)**

The following Council members were elected in alphabetical order by surname: Itunu Allison, Bernard Devereux, Roisin Lindsay, and Bridgette Reid.

*The AGM concluded at 12:41pm.*