

MINUTES

Meeting: Commission Meeting

Date: 28 April 2021

Time: 1pm

Place: Video conference

Attendees

Commission Members:

Sir John Armitt	(Chair)
Professor Sir Tim Besley	(Commissioner)
Neale Coleman CBE	(Commissioner)
Professor David Fisk CB	(Commissioner)
Andy Green CBE	(Commissioner)
Professor Sadie Morgan OBE	(Commissioner)
Julia Prescott	(Commissioner)
Bridget Rosewell CBE	(Commissioner)

Secretariat:

James Heath	(Chief Executive)	
James Richardson	(Chief Economist)	
Giles Stevens	(Director of Policy)	
Hannah Brown	(Director of Policy)	
Jen Coe	(Director of Policy)	
Mark Ardron	(Chief Operating Officer)	
	(Head of Communications)	
	(Head of Private Office)	
	(Head of Economic Analysis)	
	(Events and Stakeholder Engagement Officer)	
	(Assistant Director)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Economic Data and Modelling Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Assistant Director)	(Items 6-7)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Items 6-7)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Item 7)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Item 7)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Item 7-8)
	(Senior Economic Adviser)	(Item 7)

(Assistant Director)	(Item 8)
(Senior Technical Adviser)	(Item 8)
(Senior Economic Adviser)	(Item 8)

External guests

The Right Honourable Lord Deben (Chair, Climate Change Committee)	(Item 6)
Chris Stark (Chief Executive Officer, Climate Change Committee)	(Item 6)

1. Apologies and Welcome

1.1 No apologies were received.

2 Minutes and matters arising

2.1 No comments were made on the minutes of the last meeting. The Chair noted that the actions in the action log had been completed.

3 Declarations of Interest

3.1 Bridget Rosewell (BR) noted that she had been appointed as a Non Executive Director on the board of Northumbrian Water and that she would recuse herself from discussions of policy with a material impact on the company.

3.2 Julia Prescott (JP) noted that she had been appointed as a member of the Department for International Trade's UK Investment Council, advising on attracting inward investment to the UK.

4 Chair's Update

4.1 The Chair updated on his activities since the last meeting. He noted productive meetings with the Canadian government, which had set up its own infrastructure Commission similar to the NIC, and with Natural England and Highways England.

4.2 Commissioners also noted productive meetings with Homes England, heat pump manufacturers, and participation in central government working groups exploring levelling up and regional growth.

4.3 BR recommended that the Board receive a presentation in future from the [UK Collaboratorium for Research on Infrastructure and Cities \(UKCRIC\)](#).

5 Chief Executive's Update

5.1 The Chief Executive (JH) provided an update on his activities since the last meeting.

6 External speakers – Lord Deben and Chris Stark

6.1 The Chair welcomed Lord Deben (LD) and Chris Stark (CS) to present on the sixth carbon budget and their priorities for infrastructure's role in decarbonisation.

7 Greenhouse Gas Removals Technologies

7.1 The Chair invited JC, NW and CM to introduce an update on the Greenhouse Gas Removals Technologies study. JC reminded Commissioners that the study would explore technologies, the policies required to deploy GGRs and the timelines for government action. CM said the sector could potentially be large in scale and research suggested nature based solutions alone would not be sufficient to meet the UK's climate obligations alongside other mitigations, based on current projections.

7.2 NW said the study's initial findings indicated that GGRs should be deployed in the UK in the near term because of the need for insurance options in case decarbonising the economy does not go to plan. He noted that the UK was well situated to deliver GGRs because it had access to storage locations, cheap electricity, and strong institutional frameworks. Developing skills in GGRs may also result in capturing part of the market and supply chain for the UK. NW highlighted that government action was needed because of high technology cost, the lack of incentives, and thus no current demand from industry.

8 Behaviour Change

8.1 The Chair invited GM to introduce proposals to publish a paper on Covid-related behaviour change as a driver of future infrastructure demand. GM said that the headline messages of the report were that it was too early to assess the long term impact of Covid, the greatest uncertainty was around demand for public transport, and that policy making would need to adapt to uncertainty.

8.2 Commissioners were asked if they were content for the paper to be published, whether they were content with the messages in the executive summary and whether they were content for the lead Commissioner to sign off the report.

DECISION: Commissioners agreed to publish the behaviour change drivers paper, giving the lead Commissioner sign-off of the final report.

9 AOB

9.1 JH noted that the CCC would be represented on expert panels for NIA2 and that the Commission would invite Whitehall officials to future meetings to monitor progress against recommendations.

9.2 JH Noted that the Corporate Plan would be published on 30 April and that it would be accompanied by a press notice announcing the NIA2 expert panels and the process and timeline for developing the second assessment.

9.3 JH said the secretariat planned to move to a hybrid working model when social distancing measures allow. Commissioners expressed a preference for a mix of in-person and online meetings in future.