

MINUTES

Meeting: Commission Meeting

Date: 09 December 2020

Time: 1pm

Place: Video conference

Attendees

Commission Members:

Sir John Armitt	(Chair)	
Professor Sir Tim Besley	(Commissioner)	
Professor David Fisk CB	(Commissioner)	
Professor Sadie Morgan OBE	(Commissioner)	
Julia Prescott	(Commissioner)	
Bridget Rosewell CBE	(Commissioner)	
Neale Coleman CBE	(Commissioner)	(Item 6-9)

Secretariat:

James Heath	(Chief Executive)	
James Richardson	(Chief Economist)	
Giles Stevens	(Director of Policy)	
Charlotte Goodrich	(Chief Operating Officer)	
	(Head of Communications)	
	(Head of Private Office)	
	(Policy Apprentice)	
	(Rail Review Study Lead)	(Item 1-5)
	(Rail Review Study Adviser)	(Item 1-5)
	(Assistant Director)	(Item 6)
	(Monitoring and Implementation Manager)	(Item 6)
	(Assistant Director)	(Item 7)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 7)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 7)
	(Modelling Lead)	(Item 7)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 7)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 7)
	(Assistant Director)	(Item 8)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 8)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 9)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 9)

1. Apologies and Welcome

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Andy Green (AG) for the whole meeting and Neale Coleman (NC) for part of the meeting.

2 Minutes and matters arising

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

3 Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 Tim Besley (TB) noted he had been appointed to join the Institute for Fiscal Studies' Deaton Review into inequality. Bridget Rosewell (BR) noted she had been asked to rejoin the planning task force for the planning bill.

4 Chair's Update

- 4.1 The Chair updated on his activities since the last meeting. He noted productive meetings with Sarah Munby, BEIS Permanent Secretary, and Melanie Dawes, CEO of Ofcom.

5 Chief Executive's Update

- 5.1 The Chief Executive (JH) provided an update on his activities since the last meeting. He noted that the National Infrastructure Strategy had demonstrated the Commission's impact, with the government accepting or partially accepting 80% of the Commission's recommendations.
- 5.2 JH noted that the Rail Needs Assessment would be published on 15 December with himself, the Chair and BR leading a launch press conference.

6 National Infrastructure Strategy Response and Annual Monitoring Report

- 6.1 The Chair invited AH to introduce a paper on the Commission's response to the National Infrastructure Strategy and the Annual Monitoring Report.

DECISION: Commissioners accepted the proposed NIS response set out in the paper.

7 Congestion charging

- 7.1 The Chair invited GM to introduce a paper on the scoping of the congestion charging study.

DECISION: Commissioners were content with the approach outlined in the paper.

8 Greenhouse Gas Removals study - scoping

- 8.1 The Chair invited NW and JC to introduce a scoping paper on the Greenhouse Gas Removals (GGR) study. NW noted that GGR technology was needed because there were some areas of the UK economy, such as long distance shipping and aviation, which did not yet have a clear decarbonisation pathway. He highlighted that the study would focus on engineered removals

and not nature based solutions and that the two engineered solutions in scope were direct air carbon capture and storage (DACCS) and bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS). He noted that both technologies required a CCS network, but that the study would only make recommendations on this insofar as it related to the deliverability of the technologies themselves.

8.2 JC noted that the study would focus on the technologies themselves (technological readiness, investment required, input requirements, outputs and the scale of demand), the policy mechanisms required to support uptake of the technologies, and the implementation timelines required to achieve net zero by 2050.

8.3 Commissioners were asked to approve the proposed scope for the study and to approve the plan to engage stakeholders through a call for evidence, with sign off for the call for evidence delegated to lead commissioners.

DECISION: Commissioners approved the proposed scope and approved delegation of sign-off of the call for evidence to lead Commissioners.

9 Natural Capital

9.1 The Chair invited OP to introduce a paper outlining the Commission's proposed approach to considering the relationship between infrastructure and the environment.

9.2 Commissioners were asked whether they agreed with the conclusions of the paper and whether the paper could be signed off by JP as lead Commissioner with comment from BR.

DECISION: The Commission approved the paper's conclusions and to delegate sign off to the lead Commissioner.

10 AOB

10.1 JH noted that it was Charlotte Goodrich's (CG) last meeting and thanked her for her work transforming the Commission's operations.

10.2 The Chair thanked Commissioners for their resilience in adapting to new ways of working in a challenging year.