

# MINUTES

**Meeting: Commission Meeting**

**Date: 8 December 2021**

**Time: 1.10pm**

**Place: Finlaison House and video conference**

## Attendees

### Commission Members:

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Sir John Armitt          | (Chair)        |
| Professor Sir Tim Besley | (Commissioner) |
| Neale Coleman CBE        | (Commissioner) |
| Professor David Fisk CB  | (Commissioner) |
| 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)      |          |
| Jen Coe          | (Director of Policy)      |          |
| Mark Ardron      | (Chief Operating Officer) |          |
|                  | (Head of Private Office)  |          |
|                  | (Head of Communications)  |          |
|                  | (Assistant Director)      | (Item 6) |
|                  | (Senior Policy Adviser)   | (Item 6) |
|                  | (Assistant Director)      | (Item 7) |

### External guests:

|                    |  |          |
|--------------------|--|----------|
| Tamara Finkelstein | (Permanent Secretary, DEFRA)                             | (Item 8) |
| David Hill         | (Director General, Environment, Rural and Marine, DEFRA) | (Item 8) |

## 1. Apologies and Welcome

1.1 Apologies were received from Andy Green.

## 2. Minutes and matters arising

2.1 No comments were made on the minutes of the last meeting.

## 3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 Sadie Morgan noted she'd been asked to sit on the net zero buildings council being run by DLUHC and BEIS.

#### **4 Chair's update**

4.1 The Chair updated on his activities since the last meeting including various media engagements and attending a conference on geological disposal facilities.

#### **5 CEO's update**

5.1 The Chair invited the Chief Executive (JH) to update on key developments since the last meeting. JH updated the Commission on discussions to date with a view to agreeing a 3 year budget settlement with HM Treasury.

#### **6 Urban transport project scoping**

6.1 The Chair invited BM to introduce the proposed scope of the NIA2 urban transport and congestion challenge. Commissioners were asked if they agreed with the proposed scope and outputs.

**DECISION: The Commission approved the scope of the project.**

#### **7 Annual Monitoring Report**

7.1 The Chair invited Jen Coe (JC) to introduce plans for the Annual Monitoring Report 2022. JC said the report aimed to follow AMR 2021 in taking a targeted approach focussed on 10 priorities for the year ahead and that it would use a combination of the four tests and, where possible, action on the ground to assess progress. JC asked Commissioners for comment on and approval of the proposed approach.

**DECISION: Commissioners approved the proposed approach to AMR 2022.**

#### **8 Departmental speaker – Tamara Finkelstein**

8.1 The Chair invited Tamara Finkelstein (TF) and David Hill (DH) to introduce their work in areas covered by the Commission's remit. TF said that key activities included passing the Environment Act, which implemented a requirement for biodiversity net gain for National Significant Infrastructure Projects and placed Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans on a statutory footing. She also noted the net zero strategy which considered how the waste sector could achieve net zero. Finally, she noted that DEFRA was working on the National Adaptation Report which was due for publication in 2023.

#### **9 AOB**

9.1 No items of AOB were raised.