

MINUTES

Meeting: Commission Meeting

Date: 29 July 2020

Time: 1pm

Place: Video conference

Attendees

Commission Members:

Sir John Armitt	(Chair)
Professor Sir Tim Besley	(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)
Charlotte Goodrich	(Chief Operating Officer)
	(Head of Communications)
	(Head of Private Office)
	(Rail Needs Assessment study lead) (Items 1-5)
	(Rail Policy Adviser) (Items 1-5)
	(Senior Economic Adviser) (Item 5)
	(Senior Policy Adviser) (Item 5)
	(Senior Policy Adviser) (Item 5)
	(Senior Policy Adviser) (Item 5)
	(Policy Adviser) (Item 5; Item 7)
	(Economic Apprentice) (Item 5)
	(Senior Economic Adviser) (Items 5 – 7)
	(Senior Policy Adviser) (Item 7)
	(Senior Policy Adviser) (Item 8)
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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 the actions in the action log.

3 Chair's update

3.1 The Chair provided an update on his activities since the last meeting, noting his meeting with the Transport Secretary. He noted discussions within government about the possibility of an increase in the Commission's fiscal remit.

4 Chief Executive's update

4.1 The Chief Executive (JH) highlighted the key objectives for the meeting: to discuss the Rail Needs Assessment's approach to scheme prioritisation; to discuss the Commission's work on infrastructure's relationship with the environment; to approve the draft diversity and inclusion strategy; to approve work on behaviour change and infrastructure demand; and to discuss the results of the Commission's effectiveness review.

4.2 JH noted that the next few months would be very important for the Commission, as the Chancellor had just launched the spending review and the National Infrastructure Strategy was due for publication at the autumn fiscal event.

4.3 Bridget Rosewell (BR) noted that she had been asked to join a panel for Transport for London on a long term strategy following the Covid-19 pandemic, and that the panel was due to report at the end of August.

5 Rail Needs Assessment

5.1 The Chair invited the Director of Policy (GS) to introduce progress on the Rail Needs Assessment. GS noted the packaging approach and that three indicative packages had been presented. Commissioners were asked to comment on the approach and what should be included within the packages.

DECISION: The Commission approved the packaging approach and gave consent for lead Commissioners and the Chair to sign off on the final packages.

6 Natural Capital

6.1 The Chair invited CW to introduce a paper on the Commission's approach to the relationship between infrastructure and the environment, outside of climate change. CW noted progress to date, outlined the five hypotheses the project planned to test and that the proposed output was an updated environmental drivers paper and the identification of any further work the Commission should undertake in this area. CW asked Commissioners whether the Commission should make a clear statement on infrastructure and the environment in the autumn, whether

the proposed hypotheses were the right ones and whether they agreed with the proposed next steps.

DECISION: The Commission agreed that it should make a statement on infrastructure and the environment in the autumn and that the hypotheses under consideration were the right ones.

7 Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

7.1 The Chair invited OP to introduce the Commission's diversity and inclusion strategy. OP noted that the strategy had three objectives, two internal and one external: to attract, engage with and retain people from a range of backgrounds; to create an organisational culture in which inclusion is embedded in everything the Commission does; and to champion the opportunities and benefits of greater diversity and inclusion across infrastructure. Commissioners were asked to review and improve the strategy.

DECISION: The Commission approved the diversity and inclusions strategy.

8 Behavioural Change

8.1 The Chair invited PB to introduce the Behavioural Change project. PB explained that the project aimed to produce a set of possible scenarios detailing the impact of Covid-19 and other trends on behaviour and hence future infrastructure demand. PB asked the Commission to approve the project and the proposed output - a set of scenarios detailing the high level implications of behaviour change.

DECISION: Commissioners approved the project and agreed that its principle output should be a set of possible future scenarios resulting from behaviour change.

9 Commission Effectiveness Review

9.1 The Chair invited JC to introduce the Commission effectiveness review. JC outlined the review's findings and proposed changes to board practice. Commissioners were asked to comment on the review and approve the proposed changes.

DECISION: The Commission approved the proposed changes.

10 AOB

10.1 No items of AOB were recorded.