

MINUTES

Meeting: Commission Meeting

Date: 23 June 2021

Time: 1pm

Place: Video conference

Attendees

Commission Members:

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| Sir John Armitt | (Chair) | |
| Professor Sir Tim Besley | (Commissioner) | (Items 1-9) |
| Neale Coleman CBE | (Commissioner) | |
| Professor David Fisk CB | (Commissioner) | |
| Andy Green CBE | (Commissioner) | |
| Professor Sadie Morgan OBE | (Commissioner) | |
| Julia Prescott | (Commissioner) | |
| Bridget Rosewell | (Commissioner) | |

Secretariat:

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| 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) | |
| | (Senior Policy Adviser) | (Item 6) |
| | (Assistant Director) | (Item 6) |
| | (Senior Policy Adviser) | (Item 6) |
| | (Senior Policy Adviser) | (Item 6) |
| | (Policy Adviser) | (Item 6) |
| | (Policy Adviser) | (Item 6) |
| | (Senior Economic Adviser) | (Item 6) |
| | (Senior Economic Adviser) | (Item 7) |
| | (Head of Economic Analysis) | (Item 7&9) |
| | (Senior Policy Adviser) | (Item 8) |
| | (Assistant Director) | (Item 8) |
| | (Senior Modelling Adviser) | (Item 9) |

External Guests

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| Professor William Powrie | (UK Collaboratorium on Research in Infrastructure) | (Item 10) |
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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 that the actions in the action log had been completed.

3 Declarations of Interest

3.1 No interests were declared.

4 Chair's update

4.1 The Chair outlined his activities since the last meeting. He noted a Public Accounts Committee appearance to discuss HS2.

4.2 Bridget Rosewell (BR) noted she had presented to the British Chamber of Commerce's annual conference, focusing on levelling up and achieving net zero.

5 CEO's update

5.1 The CEO (JH) noted his activities since the last meeting. He noted engagement with officials on the Towns study and that the NIA2 expert panels had been effective in testing the Commission's assumptions, particularly by seeking clarity on definitional questions.

6 Greenhouse Gas Removals

6.1 The Chair invited James Richardson (JR) to introduce a paper on the recommendations emerging from the Greenhouse Gas Removals Technologies (GGR) study. JR noted that the study was an opportunity for the Commission to design a rational response to a problem which was becoming pressing, and that acting early would maximise potential industrial strategy benefits. JR noted the core recommendations, which at the strategic level were: for government to deploy a range of CCS technologies at megatonne scale by 2030, bringing forward plans to deliver this by 2022; that deploying removals technology should not reduce action on emissions reduction; and that by 2024, and before engineered removals are deployed at scale, the government must put in place a monitoring regime.

6.2 JR noted the recommendations at policy level were: that the government should support a portfolio of engineered removals by 2030 using contracts for revenue, direct investment and staged competitions; that after the deployment phase, government should transition to a market-based approach, with obligations on sectors requiring removals; and that by 2024, government should set out any adverse consequences of a 'polluter pays' policy and how to address this.

6.3 JR also noted recommendations relating to enabling infrastructure which were: that government must ensure CCS infrastructure is delivered by setting out a regulatory regime, ensuring capacity issues are explored and consider how dispersed locations can be integrated into the network; and that government and regulators must work with operators of infrastructure networks to ensure any GGR demands are accounted for in long term plans by the end of the 2020s.

6.4 JR asked Commissioners for their approval of the recommendations and whether they were happy for sign off on the report to be delegated to the Chair and lead Commissioners.

DECISION: Commissioners approved the recommendations and agreed to delegate sign off to the Chair and lead Commissioners.

7 Distributional analysis

7.1 The Chair invited CW to present an update on the Commission's proposed work on distributional analysis. CW highlighted that the Commission would focus on a range of dimensions including age, gender and ethnic background, and would explore four tiers of impact: direct, behavioural, externalities, and for the whole economy. He noted that the approach would be bespoke across the challenges explored in NIA2 and would be selective to focus on areas where distributional impacts are most likely to be significant.

7.2 CW asked Commissioners for comment on the direction of the project.

DECISION: Commissioners were content for the project to progress.

8 Energy efficiency

8.1 The Chair invited RG to introduce a paper on energy efficiency and future household heating options. She highlighted that the team proposed publishing the report alongside an explanatory blog post. Commissioners were asked to note the findings and approve the dissemination approach.

DECISION: Commissioners approved publication of the report.

9 Agent based heat market modelling

9.1 The Chair invited DM to set out the results of a pilot agent based model of future heat markets. DM noted that the aim of the project was to understand the value of agent based modelling for the Commission's work. DM asked Commissioners for approval to publish the analysis and an accompanying blog post on the Commission website.

DECISION: Commissioners agreed to publish the findings.

10 UKCRIC presentation

10.1 The Chair invited Professor William Powrie (WP) to introduce the work of the UK Collaboratorium on Research in Infrastructure. WP noted that the collaboratorium was an interdisciplinary partnership of universities across the UK with a basis in engineering.

10.2 WP noted that the collaboratorium focused on three areas: laboratories, urban observatories which provide metrics on behaviour in urban areas using real time sensor data, and the Data Analytics Facility for National Infrastructure (DAFNI), which functioned as a forerunner to an infrastructure systems digital twin. He noted that key UKCRIC successes included analysing the length of railway piles which helped to reduce costs and restart the rail electrification programme.

11 AOB

11.1 BW noted the secretariat planned a short publication to celebrate the third anniversary of the publication of the first National Infrastructure Assessment.