

MINUTES

Meeting: Commission Meeting

Date: 20 May 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)
	(Commission Secretary)
	(Commission Oversight Board Member)
	(Rail Needs Assessment study director) (Item 5)
	(Senior Policy Adviser) (Item 5)
	(Senior Policy Adviser) (Item 5)
	(Senior Policy Adviser) (Item 5)
	(HS2 Policy Adviser) (Item 5)
	(Senior Economic Adviser) (Item 5)
	(Economic Adviser) (Item 5)
	(Policy Adviser) (Item 5)
	(Senior Policy Adviser) (Items 5 – 7)
	(Head of Economic Analysis) (Items 6 – 7)
	(Assistant Director) (Items 7 – 8)
	(Policy Adviser) (Items 7 – 8)
	(Policy Adviser) (Items 7 – 8)
	(Economic Adviser) (Items 6 and 8)
	(Modelling Lead) (Item 8)
	(Economics Apprentice) (Items 5 and 8)

External Guests

Professor Sir Charlie Bean (Committee Member, Office for Budget Responsibility) (Item 6)

1. Apologies and Welcome

1.1 No apologies were received. The Chair welcomed Katherine Easter to the meeting.

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.

3.2 The Chair noted that a revised conflicts of interest policy would be circulated to Commissioners shortly and highlighted the importance of compliance.

4 Chief Executive's update

4.1 The new Chief Executive (JH) highlighted his planned stakeholder engagement for the next three months.

4.2 JH noted that the National Infrastructure Strategy may be published between the summer and the autumn and will likely address the Commission's future work plan as well as the National Infrastructure Assessment.

4.3 JH noted that the resilience study was scheduled for publication in June.

4.4 JH outlined the organisations plans for addressing the next phase of the Covid-19 crisis, including long term planning for the workforce's return to the office.

5 Rail Needs Assessment

5.1 The Chair invited [REDACTED] (PS) to update on the Rail Needs Assessment. PS outlined the stakeholder engagement plan and asked Commissioners to agree that the July publication should follow the approach set out in the paper and to agree the workplan and stakeholder engagement activity.

DECISION: The Commission approved the study's forward workplan as set out in the paper.

6 External Speaker: Professor Sir Charlie Bean

6.1 The Chair invited Professor Sir Charlie Bean (SCB) to discuss the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on government finances and the implications of the shape of the recovery on future investment.

SCB outlined the Office for Budget Responsibility's published scenario, the dependency of the recovery on virus developments, and that a slower recovery could have fiscal implications in the long term. SCB asked Commissioners for questions and comments.

7 The NIA recommendations and the recovery

7.1 The Chair asked [REDACTED] (CB) to introduce a paper on the Commission's National Infrastructure Assessment recommendations and the economic recovery. CB asked Commissioners if they agreed with the approach and the timetable for delivering it, and whether they had a preferred approach to working with stakeholders.

DECISION: Commissioners agreed to proceed with the plans outlined in the paper.

8 Data Hub

8.1 The Chair invited [REDACTED] (DM) to update on proposals for a public facing infrastructure data hub. DM outlined progress to date on the internal and external data hubs and asked Commissioners whether there were any key features they would like to see included.

Decision: The Commission agreed to further work on the datahub.

9 AOB

9.1 [REDACTED] (BW) noted that the Young Professionals panel's 'Generational Shift' opinion pieces would be published on the Commission's website next week.

9.2 Charlotte Goodrich (CG) informed Commissioners that the second Young Professionals Panel had been recruited subject to security clearances.