

MINUTES

Meeting: Commission Meeting

Date: 14 October 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)
Neale Coleman CBE	(Commissioner)

Secretariat:

James Heath	(Chief Executive)	
James Richardson	(Chief Economist)	
Giles Stevens	(Director of Policy)	
	(Head of Communications)	
	(Head of Private Office)	
	(Policy Adviser)	
	(Rail Review Study Lead)	(Item 6)
	(Rail Review Study Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Economic Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Technical Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 6 and 9)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Assistant Director)	(Item 7-8)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 8 and 10)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Item 9)

Young Professionals Panel:

Ann Zhang	(Young Professionals Panel Chair)	(Item 9)
Calum Askins	(Young Professionals Panel Member)	(Item 9)
Sam Cocking	(Young Professionals Panel Member)	(Item 9)

External guests:

Charles Roxburgh	(Second Permanent Secretary, HM Treasury)	(Item 8)
	(Senior Policy Advisor, HM Treasury)	(Item 8)

1. Apologies and Welcome

1.1 Apologies were received from Charlotte Goodrich.

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 Neale Coleman has joined the panel for the Department for Transport's Union Connectivity Review. The review will publish its recommendations in Summer 2021.

4 Chair's Update

4.1 The Chair updated on his activities since the last meeting.

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 was still expected in the autumn despite the delay to the budget.

5.2 JH noted that the Commission's next two studies were expected in the autumn.

5.3 JH outlined the agenda for the meeting.

6 Rail Needs Assessment

6.1 The Chair invited PO to introduce the paper on the Rail Needs Assessment.

DECISION: Commissioners agreed to the messages that were set out.

7 National Infrastructure Strategy handling

7.1 The Chair invited CB to discuss the handling of the National Infrastructure Strategy.

DECISION: Commissioners agreed with the broad approaches outlined and to agree a response in advance of the publication of the strategy.

8 External Speaker – Charles Roxburgh

8.1 The Chair invited Charles Roxburgh (CR) to update Commissioners on HM Treasury's progress with the National Infrastructure Strategy.

9 Young Professionals Panel

9.1 The Chair invited Ann Zhang (AZ) to introduce the YPP's proposed engagement activities. AZ noted that the YPP's role was to engage younger audiences and provide a younger perspective on the decisions the Commission makes. AZ noted the panel had decided on two themes for their work, decarbonisation and levelling-up, with one still to be determined. AZ outlined a programme of proposed activities and asked Commissioners for feedback.

DECISION: The Commission endorsed the YPP's workplan, subject to the above considerations.

10 Growth Across Regions

10.1 The Chair invited CW to introduce a paper on defining the Commission's economic growth across all regions of the UK objective. CW highlighted that the published paper would define the objective as supporting faster growth in low productivity regions, but balancing this with the need to maintain the economic performance of high productivity regions.

DECISION: Commissioners approved the messages set out in the draft paper and the proposed publication plan.

11 AOB

11.1 No other items of business were raised.