

## MINUTES

**Meeting: Commission Meeting**

**Date: 15 September 2021**

**Time: 1pm**

**Place: Video conference**

### Attendees

#### Commission Members:

Sir John Armitt	(Chair)
Professor Sir Tim Besley	(Commissioner)
Neale Coleman CBE	(Commissioner)
Professor David Fisk CB	(Commissioner)
Andy Green CBE	(Commissioner)
Sadie Morgan OBE	(Commissioner)
Julia Prescott	(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 Communications)	
	(Head of Private Office)	
	(Apprentice Economist)	
	(Apprentice Economist)	
	(Assistant Director)	(Items 6-7)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Items 6-9)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Items 6-7)
	(Head of Economic Analysis)	(Items 6-7)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Item 7)
	(Assistant Director)	(Items 8-9)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 8)
	(Monitoring and Implementation Manager)	(Item 9)

#### External guests

Sarah Munby	(Permanent Secretary, BEIS)	(Item 9)
Lee McDonough	(Director General, Net Zero Strategy and International, BEIS)	(Item 9)
Ben Rimmington	(Director General, Net Zero Buildings and Industry, BEIS)	(Item 9)
Declan Burke	(Director, Nuclear Projects and Development, BEIS)	(Item 9)
	(Policy Adviser, BEIS)	(Item 9)

## 1. Apologies and Welcome

1.1 Apologies were received from Bridget Rosewell.

## 2 Minutes and matters arising

2.1 No comments were made on the minutes of the last meeting. The Chair noted that two actions had been completed and that plans for an in person Commission meeting were in progress.

## 3 Declarations of Interest

3.1 No new interests were declared.

## 4 Chair's update

4.1 The Chair updated on his activities since the last meeting. He noted positive meetings with Dame Glenys Stacey to discuss working with the Office for Environmental Protection, with HM Treasury to discuss the ongoing review of the Commission's remit, and with Dan Norris and Andy Burnham to discuss the concerns of their respective mayoralities.

4.2 Sadie Morgan (SM) noted a productive meeting with the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure and that the design principles had been cited by a number of speakers at the Major Projects Association conference.

## 5 CEO's update

5.1 JH highlighted that the Towns study would be published next week and that the government was due to publish its response to the Resilience Study today. He noted that the Heat and Buildings Strategy was expected to be published close to or alongside the Spending Review.

## 6 NIA 2 Baseline Report

6.1 The Chair invited EB to introduce the NIA2 baseline executive summary. EB noted that the baseline report updated on the state of UK infrastructure and Commission priorities for the second National Infrastructure Assessment. He asked Commissioners for comments on the structure and drafting and to approve the executive summary.

**DECISION: Commissioners approved the executive summary. They also agreed to delegate sign-off of the final report to lead Commissioners.**

## 7 NIA 2 drivers paper

7.1 The Chair invited AG to introduce a drivers paper to support the NIA2 baseline. AG said the paper would summarise the Commission's position set out in existing drivers papers on technology, economy, demography and the environment, as well as the Commission's view on behaviour change. She said that in response to feedback on the first NIA, the Commission

would also set out its view on how government policy in specified non-infrastructure areas might influence infrastructure policy.

**DECISION: Commissioners agreed to approve the paper, subject to reviewing the analysis on the intersection between infrastructure policy and other areas of government policy.**

## **8 Nuclear advice**

8.1 The Chair invited NW to introduce a paper on advice to be put to the government on options for meeting the government's climate targets. NW asked if Commissioners were content with the suggested advice and for the Chair to sign off the wording of the final advice.

**DECISION: Commissioners approved the advice and agreed to delegate sign off of the advice letter to the Chair.**

## **9 BEIS meeting**

9.1 The Chair welcomed Sarah Munby (SMu), Lee McDonough (LM), Ben Rimmington (BR) and accompanying officials to the meeting to discuss BEIS progress on accepted Commission recommendations.

## **10 AOB**

10.1 No items of AOB were raised.