

MINUTES

Meeting: Commission Meeting

Date: 12 November 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)	(Item 6)
Julia Prescott	(Commissioner)	(Item 1-6)
Bridget Rosewell CBE	(Commissioner)	(Item 6-10)
Neale Coleman CBE	(Commissioner)	(Item 6-8)

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)	
	(Executive Assistant)	
	(Rail Review Study Lead)	(Item 6)
	(Rail Review Study Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Technical Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Assistant Director)	(Item 7)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 8)
	(Assistant Director)	(Item 8-9)
	(Monitoring and Implementation Manager)	(Item 10)

1. Apologies and Welcome

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Julia Prescott (JP), Bridget Rosewell (BR), Sadie Morgan (SM) and Neale Coleman (NC) for part of the meeting.

2 Minutes and matters arising

2.1 No comments were made on the minutes of the last meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest

3.1 Andy Green (AG) noted he had been appointed Chair of Gentrack, an organisation providing software solutions for the water, energy and airport sectors.

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.

5.2 JH announced that Giles Stevens had been confirmed in post as a permanent Director of Policy and that Hannah Brown and Jen Coe had been appointed as a job share second Director of Policy, with a start date of 7 December.

6 Rail Needs Assessment

6.1 The Chair invited PO to introduce the paper and draft report on the Rail Needs Assessment. Commissioners were asked if they were content with the strategic narrative and key messages in the report and whether they had any wider concerns with the material in the report. Commissioners were asked whether they were content to publish in November if possible.

DECISION: Commissioners approved the messages in the draft report and agreed to publish the report in November, and to delegate sign off on the final report to the Chair.

7 National Infrastructure Strategy

7.1 The Chair invited CB to discuss the Commission's response to the National Infrastructure Strategy.

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

8 Highly renewable systems - conclusions

8.1 The Chair invited NW to introduce a paper on conclusions to the highly renewable systems project. NW noted that engineering constraints were cited as one obstacle to a highly renewable energy system. The proposed position paper would set out that there are technological solutions to these constraints and that they were affordable in context of overall system costs. NW highlighted that the outputs of the project would be a position paper and a roundtable to disseminate findings to experts. Commissioners were asked to endorse the key conclusions and dissemination plan and to agree for sign-off of the report to be delegated to David Fisk as lead Commissioner.

DECISION: Commissioners endorsed the key conclusions and dissemination plan.

9 NIA 2 baseline assessment update

9.1 The Chair invited JC to provide an update on the NIA 2 baseline assessment. Commissioners were asked to note the update to strategic themes and the proposed structure for the assessment, to endorse the planned approach for using expert panels and to propose candidates for consideration.

DECISION: The Commission endorsed the proposed structure for the baseline and expert panel proposals.

10 Engagement Strategy

10.1 The Chair invited AH to introduce the Commission's engagement strategy. Commissioners were asked to approve the strategy.

DECISION: Commissioners approved the engagement strategy

11 AOB

11.1 BW noted that the roundtable with Onward UK to discuss the growth across regions paper had now been confirmed for 1 December.