

MINUTES

Meeting: Commission Meeting

Date: 17 November 2021

Time: 1pm

Place: Finlaison House and 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)
Bridget Rosewell CBE	(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 Private Office)
	(Head of Communications)
	(Assistant Director) (Items 7-8)

External guests:

Bernadette Kelly	(Permanent Secretary, Department for Transport)	(Item 2)
Caroline Douglass	(Executive Director for Flood and Coastal Risk Management, Environment Agency)	(Item 8)
Mark Worsfold	(Director of Asset Management, South West Water)	(Item 8)
Daniel Bicknell	(Principal Policy and Programme Officer – Climate Change Adaptation, Greater London Authority)	(Item 8)
Charles Roxburgh	(Second Permanent Secretary to HM Treasury)	(Item 9)

1. Apologies and Welcome

1.1 No apologies were received.

2 Departmental meeting – Bernadette Kelly, Department for Transport

- 2.1 The Chair invited Bernadette Kelly to discuss the Department for Transport and the Commission's shared priorities.

3 Minutes and matters arising

- 3.1 No comments were made on the minutes of the last meeting. The Chair noted that the actions in the actions log had been completed.

4 Declarations of Interest

- 4.1 Professor Sir Tim Besley (TB) noted he had an unpaid advisory role with Gallup on research on changing public attitudes to the environment and climate change.

5 Chair's update

- 5.1 The Chair updated on his activities since the last meeting..

6 CEO's update

- 6.1 The Chair invited the Chief Executive (JH) to update on key developments since the last meeting. JH noted that the Integrated Rail Plan would be released tomorrow and that the approach it was likely to set out had been shaped in part by the Commission's Rail Needs Assessment.

7 Surface water flooding study

- 7.1 The Chair invited EB to introduce the terms of reference for the surface water flooding study. EB highlighted key points from the terms of reference, including that the study would be England only, that it would cover urban and rural areas, that it would consider solutions at local and landscape level, that it would consider built and nature based solutions, that it would consider the role of and improvements to drainage systems, that it would understand the risks of surface water flooding including overflows and that it would make recommendations about who should be responsible for management and mitigation. EB noted the study would not consider individual behaviour change or advanced forecasting.
- 7.2 EB noted the study aimed to quantify the cost of the problem now and in the future, identify the types and costs and benefits of solutions, identify a preferred set of solutions for different cases, consider best value decision making, that it would take into account the cost of recommendations, that it would in the short term aim to influence Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans and also take a strategic long term and adaptive approach. EB opened to initial questions from Commissioners.

8 Surface water flooding panel

- 8.1 The Chair invited Caroline Douglass (CD), Mark Worsfold (MW) and Daniel Bicknell (DB) to introduce their perspectives on the causes and consequences of, and solutions to, surface water flooding.

9 Departmental speaker – Charles Roxburgh

9.1 The Chair invited Charles Roxburgh (CR) to discuss the Commission and HM Treasury's shared priorities. CR thanked the Commission for its work, noted changes to the fiscal remit and NIC's objectives, and noted positive impacts of the NIC's work including the transformation of digital policy, the launch of the UKIB and energy policy.

10 AOB

10.1 No items of AOB were raised.