

MINUTES

Meeting: Commission Meeting

Date: 20 October 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)
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)	
	(Policy Adviser)	(Items 6-9)
	(Finance and Procurement Manager)	(Items 6-9)
	(Analytical Adviser)	(Items 6-9)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Items 6)
	(Head of Economic Analysis)	(Item 7)
	(Assistant Director)	(Item 9)
	(Head of Communications)	(Item 9)

1. Apologies and Welcome

1.1 No apologies were received.

2 Minutes and matters arising

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

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 a positive meeting with Helen Whately, the new Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury.

4.2 The Chair noted that Commissioner recruitment was ongoing and that a shortlist of candidates had now been sent to the Chancellor for approval prior to interviews.

5 CEO's update

5.1 The Chair invited the Chief Executive (JH) to update on key developments since the last meeting. JH noted that the review of the Commission's remit was now complete and that the Commission would have a new fourth objective to support climate resilience and net zero by 2050, and that it would be asked to have regard for biodiversity net gain when making recommendations within its remit. JH also noted that a decision on the Commission's fiscal remit would be made at spending review.

6 Design group renewal

6.1 The Chair invited BM to introduce proposals for the renewal of the National Infrastructure Design Group. BM noted that the group's three year term would end in May 2022 and that any extension required Commissioner agreement. He highlighted the group's achievements including the design principles and said that if the Commission were content, all members would be reappointed and one vacancy would be filled. He also asked for Commissioner consent to procure a special adviser to support the group.

DECISION: Commissioners approved the renewal of the group and the procurement of a special adviser.

7 Managing uncertainty in NIA2

7.1 The Chair invited CD to introduce a paper on the proposed approach to managing uncertainty in the second National Infrastructure Assessment. CD noted that the approach synthesised existing Commission positions and aimed to ensure a consistent approach across all NIA2 projects. He noted that the approach included developing possible future scenarios, ensuring recommendations were beneficial to as many scenarios as possible, balancing the portfolio of recommendations so risks were spread across scenarios, and taking an adaptive approach. He asked Commissioners to approve work on scenarios, to deploy them using the proposed methodology in the paper, for approval to publish a position paper in Spring 2022, and for approval to include the NIA2 drivers in the same publication.

DECISION: Commissioners approved the approach and plans to work on the scenarios with a view to publishing in the Spring alongside the infrastructure drivers. The secretariat will bring a final draft paper back to the board before publication.

8 NIA 2 baseline

8.1 The Chair invited Giles Stevens (GS) to introduce the NIA baseline report. GS highlighted key changes and asked for Commissioner comments and for approval to publish subject to lead Commissioner sign off.

DECISION: Commissioners approved publication, subject to lead Commissioner sign off.

9 NIA 2 engagement strategy

9.1 The Chair invited NW to introduce the planned strategy for stakeholder engagement during the NIA2 process. NW said that the plan only included strategic stakeholder engagement, and that more engagement would take place at working level. He asked Commissioners for comments and approval of the plan.

DECISION: Commissioners approved the engagement strategy.

10 AOB

10.1 No items of AOB were raised.