

MINUTES

Meeting: Commission Meeting

Date: 17 September 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)

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)	
	(Policy Adviser)	
	(Programme Manager)	
	(Rail Review Study Lead)	(Item 5 & 7)
	(Rail Review Study Adviser)	(Item 5 & 7)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 5 & 7)
	(Senior Economic Adviser)	(Item 5 & 7)
	(Senior Technical Adviser)	(Item 5 & 7)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 5-7)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Item 5 & 7)
	(Economic Adviser)	(Item 5 & 7)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 5)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)

External guests:

Neale Coleman	(incoming Commissioner)
	(Research Director, Britain Thinks)
	(Associate Director, Britain Thinks)

1. Apologies and Welcome

- 1.1 No apologies were received. The Chair welcomed Neale Coleman to the meeting.

2 Minutes and matters arising

- 2.1 No comments were made on the minutes of the last meeting. The Chair noted that there were no actions in the action log.

3 Chief Executive's update

- 3.1 The Chief Executive (JH) provided an update on his activities since the last meeting.

4 Chair's update

- 4.1 The Chair provided an update on his activities since the last meeting.

5 Rail Needs Assessment

- 5.1 The Chair invited Giles Stevens (GS) to introduce the Rail Needs Assessment. GS asked Commissioners whether the range of potential options to inform the Government's Integrated Rail Plan captured the right strategic choices, whether Commissioners had feedback on the key points to focus on or whether major changes were needed to the options, and whether they had comments on the proposed stakeholder engagement plan. .
- 5.2 PO and the rail needs team introduced the approach to developing the potential rail investment options and the approach to measuring the impacts of each option.

DECISION: Commissioners approved the approach to developing the options and the strategic choices they highlighted, and agreed to the proposed stakeholder engagement timeline. Commissioners agreed to delegate sign-off of the finalisation of the options to the Chair and lead Commissioners, with the secretariat to present the final options and an analysis of their impacts at the next Commission meeting.

6 National Infrastructure Design Group workplan update

The Chair invited Sadie Morgan (SM) to update the Commission on the National Infrastructure Design Group's Design Principles. SM updated on the group's four workstreams: embedding a culture of good design in infrastructure planning; advocacy within government for the National Infrastructure Assessment's recommendations on design; to respond to specific requests from the Commission; and to support the Commission's wider work. SM asked for feedback on the workplan and for views on other work the group should be undertaking.

7 Social Research

- 7.1 The Chair invited JC to introduce the social research to support the rail needs assessment. JC highlighted that the research aimed to take into account public preferences for rail

improvements, what would be likely to encourage increased rail use, and the public's attitude to disruption to services.

- 7.2 EF and RR presented the key findings from the research. JC asked Commissioners whether they were happy for the key findings to be taken into account when analysing the impact of investment options.

DECISION: The Commission agreed that the key messages of the social research should be taken into account in the analysis of rail investment options.

8 AOB

- 8.1 JC noted that the next Commission meeting may be held using a hybrid model, with some Commissioners attending virtually and some in person and asked Commissioners to confirm their preference by email.