

## MINUTES

**Meeting: Commission Meeting**

**Date: 24 January 2024**

**Time: 13:00pm**

**Place: 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Windsor House and Microsoft Teams Meeting**

### Attendees

#### Commission Members:

Sir John Armitt	(Chair)
Julia Prescott	(Deputy Chair)
Professor Sir Tim Besley	(Commissioner)
Kate Willard OBE	(Commissioner)
Professor Jim Hall	(Commissioner)
Nick Winser CBE	(Commissioner)
Neale Coleman	(Commissioner)
Michèle Dix	(Commissioner)
Professor Sadie Morgan OBE	(Commissioner)

#### Secretariat:

James Heath	(Chief Executive)
Margaret Read	(Director of Policy)
Hannah Brown	(Director of Policy)
Jen Coe	(Director of Policy)
Jonny Saks	(Chief Economist)
Mark Ardron	(Chief Operating Officer)
	(Head of Communications)
	(Head of Governance)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)
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#### Other attendees:

Lawrence Slade	Chief Executive, Energy Networks Association
Nathan Sanders	Managing Director, SSE Energy

### 1. Apologies and Welcome

1.1 Apologies were received from Andy Green.

## **2 Minutes and actions**

- 2.1 The minutes of the 13 December 2023 meeting were approved as an accurate record subject to a minor amendment in the Connected and Automated Mobility (CAM) section.

## **3 Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 There were no new declarations of interest.

## **4 Chair's update**

- 4.1 The Chair provided an update on activity since the last meeting, including a meeting with Julia Pyke, EDF Managing Director for Sizewell C, on the need for new infrastructure to meet net zero and energy security challenges.
- 4.2 The Chair updated on a meeting with Darren Jones MP, Chief Shadow Secretary to discuss NIA2.
- 4.3 Commissioners provided an update on their recent activity.

## **5 Chief Executive's update**

- 5.1 The Chair invited JH to provide an update on recent activity.

## **6 Electricity distribution network panel**

- 6.1 The Chair welcomed Lawrence Slade (LS), Chief Executive of the Energy Networks Association, and Nathan Sanders (NS), Managing Director of SSE Energy Solutions to the meeting.
- 6.2 LS provided an overview of the biggest challenges facing electricity distribution networks, how current or proposed plans are addressing these challenges, and the potential roles for both network and non-network solutions such as flexibility in meeting the demands of a net zero system.
- 6.3 NS provided an overview of the biggest challenges in customers connecting to the distribution network and to what extent policy is addressing these challenges, and how the process of working with DNOs to connect to the network could improve.
- 6.4 Commissioners and panel members discussed the challenges.
- 6.5 The Chair thanked LS and NS for joining the meeting.

## **7 Cost escalation project**

- 7.1 The Chair invited AIS to the meeting to provide an update on the project which will examine the issue of cost control in UK infrastructure.

7.2 Commissioners were asked to provide initial views of potential drivers of cost in UK infrastructure projects.

7.3 Commissioners provided feedback and noted the paper.

## **8 Rail project – scope and approach**

8.1 The Chair welcomed CW to the meeting for an update on the proposed approach to the first phase of the rail project which was part of the agreed workplan for 2024.

8.2 Commissioners were asked to approve the approach to Phase 1 of the project.

8.3 Commissioners discussed the paper and provided feedback.

8.4 The Commission agreed to commence the first phase of the rail project.

## **9 AOB**

9.1 No AOB was raised.