

MINUTES

Meeting: Commission Meeting

Date: 25 May 2021

Time: 1pm

Place: Video conference

Attendees

Commission Members:

Andy Green CBE	(Commissioner – standing in for the Chair)
Professor Sir Tim Besley	(Commissioner)
Neale Coleman CBE	(Commissioner)
Professor David Fisk CB	(Commissioner)
Professor Sadie Morgan OBE	(Commissioner)
Julia Prescott	(Commissioner)

Secretariat:

James Heath	(Chief Executive)	
James Richardson	(Chief Economist)	
Giles Stevens	(Director of Policy)	
Hannah Brown	(Director of Policy)	
Mark Ardron	(Chief Operating Officer)	
	(Communications Manager)	
	(Head of Private Office)	
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Items 6-7)
	(Assistant Director)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Senior Economic Adviser)	(Item 6)
	(Assistant Director)	(Item 7&9)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 7)
	(Senior Policy Adviser)	(Item 8)
	(Policy Adviser)	(Item 8)

YPP representatives

Ann Zhang	(Chair, Young Professionals Panel)	
Monica Laucas	(Member, Young Professionals Panel)	
Cissie Liu	(Member, Young Professionals Panel)	(Item 8)

1. Apologies and Welcome

1.1 Apologies were received from Sir John Armit and Bridget Rosewell.

2 Minutes and matters arising

2.1 No comments were made on the minutes of the last meeting. The meeting's acting chair noted that the actions in the action log had been completed, excepting one which was in progress.

3 Declarations of Interest

3.1 The CEO (JH) noted that the Chair had agreed to chair a project with Birmingham University to use local case studies to explore how heat decarbonisation might be delivered in residential and business settings.

4 CEO's Update

4.1 JH outlined his activities since the last meeting. He noted productive meetings between the Chair and the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government; and with the Financial Secretary to the Treasury. He also highlighted the government's pathway for responding to the Commission's Resilience study.

4.2 JH also noted the IPA's updated approach to project assurance reviews, highlighting that it had included adherence to the Commission's Design Principles as a marker of whether a project is on track.

5 Commissioner updates

5.1 Commissioners provided an update of their activities since the last meeting, including participating in panels with the Rail Minister and a meeting with the UK Infrastructure Bank; Julia Prescott had also spoken at a Westminster Forum event about the role of the Bank.

6 Greenhouse Gas Removals

6.1 The acting Chair (AG) invited JC to introduce a paper on proposals emerging from the Greenhouse Gas Removals Technologies (GGR) study. JC reminded Commissioners of the project's scope. JC, AB, and KM outlined draft proposals for Commissioner comment.

6.2 JC noted the project would bring draft recommendations to the June Commission meeting.

7 National Infrastructure Assessment 2 Baseline

7.1 The acting Chair invited EB to update on the baseline report for the second National Infrastructure Assessment. EB sought feedback on the core narratives explaining how policy projects aligned to the three proposed strategic themes. He noted the dates for the expert panels to support the process and that the baseline would be published in October.

7.2 EB said the report would return to the Commission with an update on the draft narrative in July.

8 Young Professionals Panel

8.1 The acting Chair invited Ann Zhang (AZ), Monica Laucas (ML) and Cissie Liu (CL) to update on the YPP's activities over the last quarter. AZ provided a summary of YPP activities including roundtables on local area energy planning and town regeneration, a survey of young professionals to consider how they'd like towns to develop and on reasons for leaving towns. She also noted a podcast with Rachel Skinner, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, a video commentary on the levelling up fund prioritisation, and a social media poll on whether the UK should ban certain short haul flights where there was a viable alternative by rail.

8.2 CL set out the findings from the YPP's roundtable on Local Area Energy Partnerships. Commissioners were asked to comment on the findings and to note the YPP's proposals to present findings to the secretariat in June.

9 NIA 2 workplan update

9.1 The acting Chair invited JH to update on the workplan for NIA2. JH noted that the project would run in three phases: the baseline would run until October; the policy projects would run until spring 2023; and the final publication phase would run until autumn 2023. He noted that the policy projects would run simultaneously to allow time for analysis, stakeholder engagement and consideration of cross cutting issues.

10 AOB

10.1 No items of AOB were raised.

