

Hydrogen Advisory Council Terms of Reference

Objectives

The purpose of the Hydrogen Advisory Council (the Council) is to inform and advance the development of hydrogen as a strategic decarbonised energy carrier for the UK.

The Council will focus on activity required across the 2020s to deliver our 2030 10 GW ambition and expand the UK low carbon hydrogen economy, including guiding the implementation of the Hydrogen Strategy and its commitments. This should seek to promote economic benefit for the UK and provide the learning and assurance required to realise the potential of hydrogen in meeting the Sixth Carbon Budget and our net zero commitments.

Through the Council, Government and Industry will work together to identify and promote concrete actions required to enable the supply of low carbon hydrogen at scale for use across the energy system, addressing near-term challenges and maximising opportunities for UK business in this rapidly growing area. In doing so the Council will consider the relationship between production and end use, including strategic considerations for where and when hydrogen is deployed, alongside network and storage infrastructure needs.

The Council will be the primary forum for BEIS Ministerial engagement with representatives from the hydrogen sector. The Council and its working groups will engage with existing industry and Government led groups where the remit covers hydrogen or has implications for the development of hydrogen, to ensure alignment as required.

Working groups

The Council oversees several working groups which reflect key workstreams and serve as a forum for policy leads across the hydrogen programme to present progress in their work to stakeholders, and to use experts across industry and academia as sounding boards for policy development.

Membership of the working groups may come from the organisations represented on the Council and/or more widely according to need.

Agreed working groups:

- 2020s Deployment Roadmap
- Business Model Expert Group
- Low Carbon Hydrogen Standard
- Sector Development
- Research and Innovation
- Regulators' Forum
- Infrastructure
- Electrolytic

Membership

Membership of the Council and its working groups will be reviewed periodically to ensure that it is able to respond to and support government in meeting its strategic objectives for hydrogen. BEIS values diversity and inclusion and promotes equality of opportunity to enable

us to reflect the communities that we serve. BEIS is committed to ensuring that its Councils are diverse and inclusive. When membership is reviewed, we will consider not only the individual strengths of members, but equality of representation, including regional representation.

Quorum

As a minimum, the Group will constitute a quorum if a Chair (Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and/or industry co-chair), ten Council members and a Senior Official from the BEIS Hydrogen & Industrial Carbon Capture Directorate Team is present.

Handling

Discussions within the Council will be treated as official sensitive. A summary of each meeting will be made publicly available on GOV.UK.

Process

The Hydrogen Advisory Council will meet quarterly and will be co-chaired by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Jane Toogood, reflecting the importance of joint working between government and industry.

The Council will run in tandem with the BEIS hydrogen programme to guide the delivery of commitments in the Hydrogen Strategy. We will review the running of Council on a yearly basis. The Council will be supported by officials from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The priorities of the Council will be reviewed periodically, with adjustments to membership where necessary.

The Council will be mindful of the work of other relevant Government-Industry Councils and look to build links between Councils as appropriate to ensure that complementary interests and workstreams are acknowledged and accounted for. In particular, the Council will work with the CCUS Council and the Offshore Wind Industry Council, and the Jet Zero Council. The industry co-chair and senior officials will agree an approach in consultation with counterparts in other Councils.

Note: Council members have the right to delegate attendance to those of a sufficient level of seniority from their respective organisations by exception. This will need to be agreed with the Council Secretariat.

The Ministerial co-chair will:

- Provide strategic guidance on priorities to best deliver the workstreams and wider government priorities;
- Consider corporate, budgetary or political risks and impacts on the workstreams; and
- Delegate the role of co-chair to a junior Minister or senior BEIS official by exception.

The industry co-chair will:

- Sit independently of their company interests;
- Represent industry's interests and priorities;

- Provide strategic guidance on priorities to best deliver the workstreams; and
- Delegate the role of co-chair to another Council member by exception, to be organised by the co-chair and agreed with the Council Secretariat.