

# Energy Innovation Board Summary Note

24<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## Attendees

*(Only Senior Civil Servants named)*

**Board members & alternates:** **Patrick Vallance**, Government Chief Scientific Adviser and Chair; **Julian Critchlow**, BEIS Director General Energy Transformation and Clean Growth; **Charlotte Watts**, DFID Chief Scientific Adviser; **Ian Boyd**, DEFRA Chief Scientific Adviser; **Min Zhu**, Ofgem Associate Partner; **Ian Meikle**, Innovate UK Director of Infrastructure Systems; **Martin Grant**, Atkins CEO; **Craig Lucas**, BEIS Director of Science and Innovation; **Bob Moran**, DFT Deputy Director Environment Strategy; **James Fleming**, UKRI Head of Energy.

**Observers:** HMT; **Mark Taylor**, BEIS Energy Innovation Deputy Director; GO-Science; Energy Systems.

## Agenda

### **Chair's vision for the Board, forward look and Refreshed Terms of Reference.**

The Chair set out his aims for the Board:

- To have the energy innovation agenda in line with the UK's overall climate strategy and plan.
- To have a systematic way of looking at horizon scanning
- To have a portfolio understanding of spend and determining where the UK has a comparative advantage compared to other countries
- To make sure the right policy people from all departments are involved

In discussion, it was agreed that the Terms of Reference should reflect that the Board has a cross Whitehall function and that the Board had a useful opportunity to give advice to Ministers. whilst the Board was advisory, it would be beneficial to identify where its advice should be directed, and that modest resources to support the Board may need to be revisited.

### **SR19: Energy Innovation**

BEIS provided and presented on a paper related to energy innovation related bids in the Spending Review (SR19). Board members commented that a cross Whitehall narrative would be welcomed as this would help frame Departmental activity. Broader energy policy and market conditions would also influence innovation and technology development and that it would be important to understand how activity is leveraging and stimulating private sector spend.

The Energy Innovation Needs Assessments were underway and initial outputs will be presented to the December 2018 Board to discuss.

## **AOB**

Innovate UK updated the Board on the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF). There had been Expressions of Interest related to clean growth, including nuclear, industrial decarbonisation and green finance. For any future waves, the Chair asked for the Board to be sighted on timelines.

On the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF), the Chair expected an update from UKRI at the Dec Board. DEFRA reflected that the methodology for the SPF was still developing.