

# Energy Innovation Board

## Summary note

28<sup>th</sup> March 2019

### Attendees

*(Only Senior Civil Servants named)*

**Board members & alternates:** **Patrick Vallance**, Government Chief Scientific Adviser and Chair; **Lynn Gladden**, EPSRC Chief Executive; **Xavier Mamo**, EDF Energy R&D UK Center Director; **Mark Thompson**, UKRI-InnovateUK Head of Energy; **Martin Grant**, Atkins CEO; **John Loughhead**, BEIS Chief Scientific Advisor; **Craig Lucas**, BEIS Director of Science and Innovation; DEFRA Head of Chief Scientific Advisor's Programme Office & Strategy; **Phil Blythe**, DfT Chief Scientific Advisor; **Julian Critchlow**, BEIS Director General Energy Transformation and Clean Growth; **Mary Starks**, Ofgem Executive Director; **Charlotte Watts**, DFID Chief Scientific Adviser.

**Observers:** **Matthew Billson**, EIB Secretariat; GO-Science; HMT; DfID Research and Innovation Team Leader; **Ron Loveland**, Welsh Government; **Mark Taylor**, BEIS Deputy Director Energy Innovation; DfT Deputy Chief Scientific Advisor.

### Agenda

#### **Update from UKRI InnovateUK**

An overview of Innovate UK's Energy Portfolio was provided alongside an assessment of its current impacts. The Board agreed that an integrated view of investment was needed across UKRI including split of early-stage research versus development and implementation, a view of industry-matched funding and the specific areas where investment was being made (nuclear, wind etc). The Board suggested that the UKERC Energy Research Atlas may be of use to achieve this and also stressed the importance of metrics on impact and outcome of energy spend.

#### **Spending Review priorities**

BEIS updated the Board on the policy gap to deliver future carbon budgets and noted that the EINAs (Energy Innovation Needs Assessments) have been used to produce an emerging priorities list for consideration. The Board agreed that a balance needed to be struck between keeping 'options open' and determining a trajectory for industry to follow, and between developing existing technology or early-stage innovation. As such, priorities would need to be established and discussed in the next meeting.

#### **Utilities-led innovation activity**

Ofgem presented three mechanisms that were being used for network innovation. The Board commented on the potential for underspend if an insufficient number of high-quality proposals were received.

#### **Private sector innovation**

The Board received a presentation on indicators and trends in private sector energy innovation, including trends in venture capital investment. The Board Secretariat is to target a few companies for strategic discussions on energy innovation activity and asked for recommendations of companies to include.

#### **AOB**

The Board briefly discussed the Brexit opportunities and risks on energy innovation.