

Energy Innovation Board Summary Note

16th Sep 2019

Attendees

(Only Senior Civil Servants named)

Board members & alternates: **Patrick Vallance**, Government Chief Scientific Adviser and Chair; **John Loughhead**, BEIS Chief Scientific Advisor; **Phil Blythe**, DfT Chief Scientific Advisor; DfID Research And Innovation Team Leader; **Iain Williams**, DEFRA Deputy Chief Scientific Advisor; **Julian Critchlow**, BEIS Director General Energy Transformation and Clean Growth; **Damitha Adikaari**, BEIS Director; **Ian Meikle**, Innovate UK Director of Infrastructure Systems; **Neil Viner**, EPSRC Deputy Executive Chair and Chief Operating Officer; **Jonathan Brearley**, Ofgem Executive Director Systems and Networks; **Ian Simm**, Impax Asset Management Group Chief Executive; **Xavier Mamo**, EDF Energy R&D UK Centre Director.

Observers: **Matthew Billson**, EIB Secretariat; GO-Science; **Ron Loveland**, Welsh Government; **Richard Rogers**, Northern Ireland Government; **Rita Wadey**, BEIS Deputy Director Hydrogen Economy.

Agenda

Recap of the Board's priorities ahead of the Spending Review

BEIS recapped the Board's previous discussion on R&D priorities and presented timelines for a sample of technologies outlining when key decision points for energy technologies needed to be made. The summaries were heavily influenced by the Energy Innovation Needs Assessments and wider analysis with policy teams. This clarified that decarbonising heat and industry are both priorities, including a need to understand heat technologies, how to deploy heat pumps, the role of hydrogen and the role of CCUS. Linked to this is hydrogen and bioenergy and the timelines propose a focus on supply chain and feedstock, gasification and new technology, especially in relation to hydrogen and transport. The Board agreed that the energy innovation timelines are useful as they highlight the urgency for progress in certain areas and links it to the energy innovation spend.

Update on DEFRA's approach to the Spending Review

DEFRA outlined their research and funding needs ahead of the Spending Review period. These were related to the reform of food and farming systems to support government's commitments of transforming food production and land use systems by 2050. Areas considered in their bid included new evidence to reform and innovate the farming system, continuing to deliver the 25-year environment plan and supporting innovation in the green tech and agri-tech sector to capitalise on opportunities for sustainable growth. The Board agreed that DEFRA's priorities were sensible and asked that they identify where additional support is needed from other government departments to avoid duplication of work.

Hydrogen Innovation case study

The Board received a presentation on the hydrogen innovation case study. It was noted that work was ongoing to identify how the UK could utilise hydrogen as a strategic decarbonisation route to achieve Net Zero. The presentation included an update on the current hydrogen economy, innovation that government had supported to date and the vision for a UK hydrogen economy in 2050. The Board noted that Ofgem was reviewing how the network would need to evolve in order to deliver this hydrogen vision. The need for basic research was also flagged, e.g. on leakage, to underpin deployment and delivery. The Chair concluded the discussion by stating that the clarity in the case study is useful and highlighting the progress BEIS have made in the hydrogen sector.

AOB

Ofgem gave an update on its review of innovation funding.