

## Energy Innovation Board Summary Note

08<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### 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; **John Loughhead**, BEIS Chief Scientific Advisor; **Phil Blythe**, DfT Chief Scientific Advisor; **Charlotte Watts**, DFID Chief Scientific Adviser; **Gideon Henderson**, DEFRA Chief Scientific Advisor; **Alan Penn**, MHCLG Chief Scientific Advisor; **Damitha Adikaari**, BEIS Science & Innovation for Climate & Energy Director; **Ian Meikle**, Innovate UK Director of Infrastructure Systems; **Lynn Gladden**, EPSRC Chief Executive; **Duncan Wingham**, NERC Chief Executive; **Steve McMahon**, Ofgem (Deputising for Akshay Kaul); **Ian Simm**, Impax Asset Management Group Chief Executive; **Jo Coleman**, Shell UK Energy Transition Manager.

**Observers:** **Matthew Billson**, EIB Secretariat; No.10 Senior Policy Advisor; **Chris Pook**, GO-Science; HMT; MOD; **Ron Loveland**, Welsh Government; **Craig Frew**, Scottish Government; **Richard Rogers**, Northern Ireland Government; **Alex Jones**, Director of Science, Research and Innovation.

### Agenda

The Board received an update on the Climate Change National Strategy Implementation Group meeting.

#### **DfT decarbonisation update**

An overview was provided of the work that DfT are conducting with Government Office for Science to support the Transport Decarbonisation Plan. DfT are focussing on hydrogen transport demand, batteries, charging and autonomy, as well as sustainable jet fuels. The presentation specified how these transport crossovers aligned with the Board's technological priorities. DfT are also working to fill the evidence gaps on the role of hydrogen in heavy use vehicles, as well as narrowing down the scope and cost of hydrogen for the transport sector overall. The Board commented that they supported the integrated approach to decarbonising transport and would welcome further detail of possible future spend.

#### **CCC land use report**

Implications for research priorities and the Board's future work were discussed in light of the CCC's Land Use report. The Board highlighted the importance of factoring economic value into this work and encouraged DEFRA to engage with national parks to benefit from carbon credit schemes. The Board also agreed that Land Use would have an important role to play in reducing carbon emissions and agreed to revisit the topic in more detail at a future meeting.

#### **Net Zero innovation landscape**

A progress update on HMG draft R&D Strategy was provided. The strategy mainly focused on economic growth, tackling social and environmental challenges, and galvanising the R&D ecosystem. There will be a follow up to this strategy to answer the questions the current document set out. The

Board recommended that the plan needed to have a stronger focus on the international comparators, the mechanisms for deployment, the importance of mission driven approaches and the actors for each stage of the R&D process.

### **Net Zero R&D plan**

An update on the proposed Net Zero R&D plan was provided. This builds on the commitment to produce an overarching plan for HMG investment in Net Zero R&D and innovation. The Board welcomed the proposed plan and found the illustrative “landscape” helpful. Further discussion on the scope was requested, including ensuring greater emphasis on land use aspects of mitigation and the whole systems approach. The Board asked for an enhanced draft be produced.

### **The role of the Net Zero Innovation Board**

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Net Zero Innovation Board and agreed with the high-level context of the Boards remit going forward. However, the Board requested further clarification on what the main changes are, and the Secretariat agreed to circulate an updated version to members for endorsement.

### **Impacts of Covid-19 on net zero targets**

BEIS presented on the impacts Covid-19 will have on long-term environmental goals. Analysis indicated that, if we were to return to our previous set of assets and trajectory after the global depression, we would not have any material impact on reducing our carbon emissions. Instead, we would move out of a health crisis and into a climate one, with the next half degree set to rise over the next five years. The analysis also concluded that we may be able to translate some behavioural changes we adopted throughout the pandemic into sustainable changes.

Furthermore, an overview of the impact Covid-19 will have on research institutions and innovation was provided. Research institutes rely heavily on funding from third parties, with most universities research and funding focussed on the Covid-19 response, this could have negative repercussions.

### **AOB**

None.