

Minutes of CCC Meeting, 17/01/2020

Present were John Deben, Julia Brown, Keith Bell, Nick Chater, Piers Forster, Rebecca Heaton, Corinne Le Quéré, Chris Stark.

### Conflicts of interest

Committee members were reminded of the need to declare any conflicts of interest.

Rebecca Heaton declared that she has been appointed to the NERC council.

#### 1. Sixth carbon budget – report output and publication date

The secretariat presented on options for the precise timing of the publication of the advice on the sixth carbon budget and implications for the sign-off process. The earlier than expected timing of COP26 means that the Committee are keen to publish the advice early in September 2020, with an ideal date of 9 September. This means signing off the advice in August, with the need to hold a Committee meeting in late July and potentially another one in August.

The Committee discussed different options for how and when parts of the advice could be published, but no final decisions were taken. The secretariat will return and present options for different ways to do this.

The Committee requested an overview of the responses to the Call for Evidence, ideally at the following meeting, including highlighting the coverage across sectors and types of respondents and any gaps therein.

#### 2. International work: objectives and plans through to the COP

**The secretariat presented a proposal for the Committee's work on international aspects of tackling climate change, to feed into the advice on the sixth carbon budget and to support COP26.**

The Committee had a wide-ranging discussion about its potential role given resource constraints and the activities of others. They agreed three objectives: to support aims of UK presidency in raising global NDC ambition, to connect up UK actions under the 6th carbon budget with global pathways (e.g. 'global leadership scenario' and sectoral analysis) and continue to export the CCC governance model and best practice as part of global effort to strengthen climate governance and institutions.

#### 3. Progress report: discussion of proposed approach and output

The Committee discussed the options for the June 2020 progress report to Parliament, given that the team will be stretched by finalising the advice on the sixth carbon budget.

The Committee emphasised that this will be an important progress report, given the **Government's legislation of Net Zero in 2019 and the need to assess progress 12 months** on, as well as that this assessment will be highly visible going into COP26. However, this need not mean a long report.

It was agreed that it would not be feasible or sensible to update the indicator framework to be compatible with the path to Net Zero, as this would pre-empt the advice on the sixth carbon budget. This means that, as in 2019, the progress report will have less quantitative analysis than usual (e.g. on the policy gap to meeting the carbon budgets).

The Committee recognised that much may change during 2020, both between January and June, and between June and COP26.

#### 4. Ways of working discussion

**The Committee congratulated Adrian Gault on his OBE in the New Year's Honours List.**

The Committee had a wide-ranging discussion about ways to do things differently. In the context of Net Zero, the Committee is keen to have a sharp focus on delivery and the need for the Government to drive action now on reducing emissions.

They recognised that the more ambitious target must place greater emphasis on the role of the demand side, as this will be of crucial importance in reaching the Net Zero target. It is important that, **to the extent possible, the Committee's work in this space is evidence-based**, and that the focus is on how policy can unlock the potential rather than the Government hoping that others will make their job easier.

The Committee discussed how best to communicate uncertainty, and strike the right balance between taking action on the best action we have today and recognising that the future is uncertain. The Committee was keen to highlight where there are evidence gaps so as to help strengthen the evidence base for future advice and for Government in taking decisions.

The Committee discussed whether the formats in which its advice is published is the most effective. It was recognised that not all supporting documents can be available for publication on the day a report is released, but that a way should be found of ensuring that stakeholders are aware of these supporting documents. The secretariat was tasked with finding potential ways of doing this.

The Committee was keen to have this kind of discussion regularly.

#### 5. Look ahead over period to 2022

The Committee discussed its role beyond the advice on the sixth carbon budget later in 2020, recognising that the scope for setting further meaningful emissions reduction targets will be very limited. The focus must now be on delivery against the legislated targets, which will place particular emphasis on annual progress reports.

The Committee judged that it was premature at this stage to nail down the future work programme given how much things are expected to change over 2020, but that they should come back to discuss it again later in the year.

#### 6. External presentation by Climate Outreach

Jamie Clarke from Climate Outreach presented to the Committee on their work and the challenges and opportunities around engaging the public on tackling climate change.