

## Climate Change Committee Meeting Minutes

**Present:** John Deben, Corinne Le Quéré, Keith Bell, Michael Davies, Piers Forster, Paul Johnson and Pete Betts (as an adviser).

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021, 09:30 – 15:00

**Held:** Virtual meeting on Zoom

Climate Change Committee

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Westminster, London,  
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### Conflicts of interest

Committee members were reminded of the need to declare any conflicts of interest. Keith Bell noted that he will be doing some work for SSE Networks, reviewing their process for development of scenarios for their own electricity network investment planning.

The Committee was introduced to and welcomed new members of the secretariat team and thanked departing members for their service.

### Item 1: International update and communications plan for COP26

The secretariat provided an update on the work of the international team, including planned activities at the COP26 meeting in November, the next phase of work of the International Climate Councils Network (ICCN) which the CCC is coordinating, and planned communications activities around the summit. The Committee stressed the importance of ensuring the CCC's independence from Government is clear in all interactions in and around the conference; supported the idea of publishing a statement from the ICCN to coincide with the ICCN's inaugural event at COP26; made some suggestions on the content of that first statement; and suggested a potential role for observers from nations which do not have a council at future ICCN meetings. The Committee stressed the importance of supporting a successful outcome; focussing on our core expertise; and thinking through likely outcomes ahead of time. Our role as a trusted communicator, and an expert in evidence-based advice should allow us to provide an informed view on UK and global progress.

### Item 2: Policy progress over the summer

The secretariat presented an update on policy progress, new announcements and consultations published by the UK Government since July. This covered key sectors including aviation (focusing on the Jet Zero consultation and potentially mandating the use of sustainable aviation fuels), transport (DfT's Transport Decarbonisation Plan and plans for a Zero Emissions Vehicle mandate, which the Committee broadly welcomed), and agriculture (a review of Henry Dimbleby's National Food Strategy which the Committee strongly welcomed), the hydrogen strategy, and newly revised (higher) carbon values which BEIS has recently published. The Committee reflected on how the secretariat's work in these sectors might develop over the coming period to continue to assess the impact of new plans and policies, as well as areas for further research and/or investigation.

### Item 3: Bank of England Biennial Exploratory Scenario

Chris Faint and Edo Schets from the Bank of England presented an update on

the Bank's response to climate change including its Biennial Exploratory Scenario or Climate BES. This covered climate change risk, why the BES is different to other stress tests, and a detailed overview of its key findings.

Andy King from the Office for Budget Responsibility presented the key findings of the OBR's Fiscal Risks report covering public spending on reaching Net Zero, likely share of costs, revenue effects of the transition, assumed carbon tax rates, real GDP impact and indirect fiscal costs, net debt impact, alternative fiscal risks scenarios, public investment, additional sensitivities, and uncertainties. The Committee welcomed both reports and discussed their findings and implications.

#### **Item 4: The Net Zero Transition: Who pays and who gains?**

The secretariat presented an update on ongoing work to assess how the costs and benefits of the Net Zero transition can be shared fairly. This included an update on recent Government publications of relevance and expectations for those which are promised in the coming months. For the longer-term development of work under this theme, the Committee requested that this include a focus on fairness, and public perceptions of fairness; distribution of costs and benefits, including across generations; continuing to share our costs evidence base, and sensitivities across assumptions such as gas prices; as well as highlighting the benefits of the transition. Options were presented for next steps, including commissioning new research and potential options for collaboration with external partners. Finalisation of the work programme should wait until the Treasury publishes its Net Zero Review. The Committee emphasised the importance of this topic and said it looked forward to seeing this workstream progress over the coming months.

#### **Item 5: Public engagement for Net Zero**

Professor Rebecca Willis and Dr Jacob Ainscough from Lancaster University provided an update on their work on public engagement, in which the CCC has been partnering as part of our commitment to provide new advice to the Government in this area in 2022. The session covered the importance of effective public engagement in delivering the Net Zero transition alongside consideration of the key actors and models of engagement at the Government's disposal. The Lancaster team presented key emerging themes which they see as critical to effective public engagement in this area from their review of a case study database, and their emerging conclusions on elements of a successful engagement. The Committee discussed the initial findings and thanked Rebecca and Jacob for their work to date. Members stressed the importance of this project, which is due to report its findings in early 2022 so they can be considered ahead of the Committee's 2022 Progress Report to Parliament.

#### **Item 6: Local Net Zero delivery – Frameworks and governance**

The secretariat presented an update on some of the key external pieces of work on local delivery of Net Zero in the past 6-9 months, building on work conducted by the CCC in 2019/20 to inform the Sixth Carbon Budget. The secretariat reiterated the importance of local actors/authorities in the overall transition and summarised the key findings of several major reports recently published in this space. These reports point to four common pillars to strengthening the role of local government, in line with the Committee's previous conclusions: an overall strategy assigning clear roles and responsibilities for central and local government; effective coordination and communication between different local authorities and with central government; increased funding that is long-term and predictable coupled with improved skills at a local level; clear policy that is consistently aligned to Net Zero. It was noted that the Devolved Administrations have a more equitable framework in place for local delivery. The Committee agreed to support a blog or OpEd to draw out these messages and asked the secretariat to work this up. Broader governance questions will be discussed at a future Committee meeting.

**AOB:** The Committee discussed plans for a return to in-person meetings following the Covid-19 pandemic. Members agreed to aim to meet in London for the November meeting but indicated they would like October's meetings (x2) to be held online.