

Climate Change Committee Meeting

Present: Lord Deben (Chair), Keith Bell, Michael Davies, Piers Forster, Corinne Le Quéré. For AOB – Nick Chater

Member interests: www.theccc.org.uk/about/transparency

Date: 22nd July 2022, 09:30-15:00

Held: Online via Zoom

Climate Change Committee

1 Victoria Street,
Westminster, London,
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1. Conflicts of interest and minutes of the previous meetings

No new conflicts of interest were raised. Committee members were reminded of the need to declare any conflicts of interest.

No comments were received on the draft minutes for the meeting on 17th June circulated for approval. Committee members were asked to share any further comments by email by Wednesday 27th June.

2. Citizens' Panel on Home Energy Use

The secretariat presented an update on the Home Energy Use Citizens' Panel project, providing an overview of the project and the outcomes to date. The secretariat provided information on the reports being prepared by Lancaster University, and set out proposals for the publication of these, including a launch event and a Ministerial letter, following the appointment of new Ministers in the Autumn. The Committee agreed to the approach set out by the secretariat.

3. Agriculture & land use strategic session

The secretariat presented slides to inform a discussion by the Committee about future work on land use, outlining its importance to both mitigation and adaptation, as well as the wide-ranging policy landscape that exists for land use. The Committee agreed that a joined-up approach between mitigation and adaptation on land use should continue to be developed as well as a more in-depth approach on nature and biodiversity. The Committee asked the secretariat to set up a land working group and return to the committee with a draft land programme in the Autumn, setting out a framework of priority work areas for consideration.

4. Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, Minister for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change

Minister Hands joined the Committee for a discussion of the Committee's latest progress report and the Government's progress in implementing the Net Zero Strategy.

5. Offsets briefing

The secretariat presented an update on the work on voluntary carbon offsets, summarising evidence from an internal literature review, call for evidence and data collection, and setting out the suggested findings for the forthcoming CCC report on voluntary carbon offsets in the UK. The Committee agreed with the overall conclusions and policy messages, including the need for better standards for voluntary carbon offsets before these voluntary markets scale further. The Committee highlighted the importance of a clear take home message, consideration of international implications of UK policies on offsets, and recommended further analysis relating to offset prices.

6. Devolved Administrations reports

The secretariat presented plans for the following upcoming reports: the Scotland Progress Report, the Scotland Target Advice Report, and the Northern Ireland Target Advice Report. The Committee supported the secretariat's proposal for the Scotland progress report. The Committee discussed the secretariat's proposal on the target advice report, highlighting issues with any advice to relax their existing 2030 target, and also with advising them to use carbon credits towards the target. The Committee discussed the secretariat's proposal for the Northern Ireland Target Advice Report, highlighting that all options for reaching Net Zero have significant challenges.

7. International update

The secretariat presented an update on the ongoing international work, covering recent and planned bilateral engagement, the next steps for the CCC in continuing to support the International Climate Councils Network, and planned briefings and analysis. The Committee were largely content with the secretariat's workplan and provided feedback on some further opportunities to be explored.

8. Progress dashboard

The secretariat presented an update on the progress dashboard, covering plans for its design, a discussion on how frequently to update and the role of Committee champions in approving updates. The Committee also discussed how updates could be timed to maximise its impact, and how to track changes to the dashboard over time. The proposed approach was approved by the Committee.

9. AOB

The Committee expressed their thanks to outgoing Committee member Professor Nick Chater for his contributions on the Committee.