



East of England All Party Parliamentary Group

Co-Chairs
Vice-Chairs

Peter Aldous MP and Daniel Zeichner MP
Rachel Hopkins MP, Jonathan Djanogly MP, Julie Marson MP,
Giles Watling MP, Baroness Janet Cohen

Secretary
Treasurer

Clive Lewis MP
Dr Dan Poulter MP

NON-VERBATIM MINUTES

PART ONE - PRIVATE MEETING

16:00-16:30, Tuesday 15th September

Covid-19: The East of England's Potential Contribution to the Great Recovery

Introductions and welcome by Co-chair of the Group, Peter Aldous MP

- **Peter Aldous MP** welcomed MPs, Peers, sponsors of the Group and speakers at the subsequent session on transport
- He then invited the Rt Hon Steve Barclay, MP for North East Cambridgeshire and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to address the Group further to [his letter of 22nd June](#) and in response to the [letter the APPG sent after its subsequent meeting on June 26th](#)
- **Peter Aldous MP** reminded attendees that the letter raised a number of issues including airports and the aviation sector; the water sector important asset as low rainfall, challenges; the green recovery more widely; the increasing importance of broadband and fibre connectivity – challenges; and the need for long term and adequate funding for local authorities in a sustainable recovery.

Address by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP – the East of England's Potential Contribution to the Great Recovery

- **Steve Barclay MP** said that he supported much of the APPG agenda. A number of issues fit in with the Government's wider strategy eg levelling up, net zero, and uplift in R&D
- He referenced the support the Government was giving on key issues including Kings Lynn rail investment, the Ely Junction project, efforts to make London Stansted the best connected airport of all, and two extra stations serving Cambridge. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury said this was not an exhaustive list.
- Finally, he referenced Government support for more isolated places through investment in broadband and went on to say that the Government's priorities also included food and agriculture which are important in the East of England. He said there is a positive story regards investment and the Treasury is very keen to work with colleagues to make further progress.

Questions and answers plus comments and contributions

- *Q: 4 tracking to LSA will be huge boost for the airport but will it continue to Cambridge?*

A: Productivity is important consideration but Network Rail will need to look at how much of CP7 is already committed. The Prime Minister is also keen on more cycling and more buses.

Q: Regarding EU support for regions, the East of England gets less than other regions. Will you adopt a different approach when ERDF funding is repatriated?

A: EU funds coming back does provide scope to spend better including on agriculture. Currently there is much focus, admittedly, on big cities and forgotten areas eg Manchester and Grimsby respectively. But it is noted there is always more that can be done - including for Huntingdon

Q: Which areas will you consider giving freeport status to?

A: Plan is to have ten freeports and consultation now complete. The Chancellor is now looking at fiscal package. Key issue is what is the productivity potential. What is growth potential that this unlocks. Incidentally it is not just maritime ports being considered, one could be linked to airport.

Q: The A47 in Cambridgeshire is horrendous and hinders growth including new housing.

A: I understand the importance of infrastructure but will resist the temptation to comment on schemes affecting my constituency. Keen to work on 'project speed'. The end to end process of road-building or reopening Beecham cut lines takes too long. The Budget gave strong message regards investment. Key now is delivery.

Q: Understand the importance of planes, trains and automobiles but digital connectivity is very important to East of England. Covid has reinforced that. GPs were 3% online now 90%. Opportunity to change the delivery model. Huge amounts of opportunity

A: Noted. Also aware of sector specific and ongoing discussions with regards to London Luton Airport.

Peter Alodus closed this part of the meeting by thanks Steve Barclay and added one final thought: the east of England is a very good bet for HM Treasury. It is a net contributor to the Exchequer – if you invest you will get a very good return!

PART TWO - OPEN MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Covid-19: What Are the East of England's Transport Priorities Now?

Introductions and welcome by Co-chair of the Group, Daniel Zeichner MP

- **Daniel Zeichner MP** welcomed all attendees to this part of meeting which is open to all stakeholders and explained that Steve Barclay the Chief Secretary to the Treasury had requested a private meeting with MPs and Peers which had been held immediately before. He also thanked the Innovation Corridor APPG with whom this meeting had been arranged in partnership.

- He asked if there were any amendments to [the minutes of the last meeting](#) and as there were none, these were formally adopted. Daniel also informed attendees that a letter that after the meeting a letter was sent to the Health Secretary. A reply has just been received and his will be put on the website.
- **Daniel Zeichner MP** then reminded attendees that the purpose of the meeting is to establish and clarify the region's most urgent priorities regards transport as Parliamentarians look ahead to the Spending Review in November. Of course, some of the most urgent issues will be in response to the impact of CV19 and others will, no doubt, be long standing issues which have yet to receive sufficient support from the Government and associated non-governmental bodies.

What Are the East of England's Transport Priorities Now?

- **James Palmer, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority** reported massive concerns about public transport for example the main provider of buses is losing £1.5m a month. Numbers are now down to 30% - so much so Stagecoach are now open to franchising. Demand responsive transport may be way forward. I have been trying to get people back onto public transport but now rule of 6 makes this more more difficult. Baroness Vere has been very helpful. Huge subsidies are not sustainable long term
- We will return to a working week which needs world class public transport. We need long term policies that also improve road network. Bemused by colleagues in the north complaining about underinvestment as East of England has been neglected over decades. Increased transport spending would help us deliver growth.
- **Anita Thornberry, Executive Director Haven Gateway Partnership** said there are a range of very important arterial routes: for example the A120, the A12 which goes all the way to Lowestoft, the A14 that serves Felixstowe. The region has poor infrastructure and not even mentioned rail yet! We are the poor relation in relation to spend per head for transport.
- I am fearful we will spend 15 years jostling the Government to put various schemes on an agenda and then trying to get them to fund them. Government should think more strategically and long term. Why not go further and, thinking of functional economic geography, devolve transport funding to Transport East to deliver real change.
- **Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chair Transport East STB**, informed attendees that Transport East was formed three years ago. He pointed out the importance of infrastructure for housing developments at scale. He also said that the focus cannot just be on roads, transport must be sustainable. Cllr Bentley pointed out that the East of England has the largest windfarm in the world and the longest coastline in UK.
- Cllr Bentley pointed out that the role of Transport East is to work with Government. He said that the East of England has more airports and seaports than any other region – these are not just gateways to EE but for rest of country too. Their importance will grow due to Brexit and policy should focus on improving connectivity to/from these. We are here to put forward solutions, to help meet net zero targets and improve the economic recovery.
- **Mayor David Hodgson, Chair Economic Heartlands STB** said that nationally the seven STBs work collaboratively for example on the decarbonisation agenda and to look at things strategically for example the Felixstowe to Nuneaton rail corridor.
- He explained the Economic Heartlands STB bring together providers and has just published its strategy which would provide for innovation; the delivery of east-west rail; active travel solutions; need to lower impact. As we move towards the Spending Review we have pipeline for strategic investment priorities.

- Mayor Hodgson concluded with a number of 'asks' of the APPG: support the key role of STBs and the critical importance of infrastructure investment to recovery; also acknowledge the need to do things differently - we are ambitious but not just 'old school'
- **The Rt. Hon. Lord Alan Haselhurst, Chair West Anglia Taskforce**, said that the greatest benefit of all the schemes mentioned so far would come from 4 tracking to LSA and onto Cambridge.
- **Daniel Zeichner MP** said this had been mentioned to Steve Barclay earlier. He also remarked that he was pleased to hear about the commitment to net zero and that this is an opportunity to do things differently. But we do have a problem and the region overall faces an infrastructure deficit and the we are still struggling regards east west rail (which should not end at Cambridge).
- **Anita Thornberry** asked if the A14 improvements are working? She went onto say that improvements in Huntingdon have been massive. Junction improvements are needed at Stonemarket. She also said that she wants to see freeports in Felizstowe and Harwich and improvement at Orwell bridge. Strong infrastructure adds to productivity and improves our net contribution to the Exchequer.
- **Andrew Harston** pointed out that ABP has ports at Kings Lynn, Lowestoft and in other places and that he had spent years trying to get better links. There is an important concentration of windfarms in the region and Ipswich is number one for agriculture export. Improved linkages through transport infrastructure is absolutely vital.
- **Daniel Zeichner MP** concluded the meeting by saying that a letter making the key points that have emerged from the meeting would be sent to both Steve Barclay and to Grant Shapps, the Transport Secretary. He then thanked all the speakers and said that the next meeting will focus on the region's contribution to net zero, including energy, utilities and hydrogen.

The East of England APPG is kindly supported by:



List of Attendees [TO BE CHECKED] – meeting one

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Peter	Aldous	EofE APPG Co-Chair	Waveney
Daniel	Zeichner	EofE APPG Co-Chair	Cambridge
Rt Hon Steve	Barclay	MP and Chief Secretary to the Treasury	North East Cambridgeshire
Paul	Bristow	MP	Peterborough
Jo	Churchill	MP	Bury St Edmunds
Jonathan	Djanogly	MP	Hungtingdon
Lucy	Frazer	MP	South East Cambridgeshire
George	Freeman	MP	Mid Norfolk
Rachel	Hopkins	MP	Luton South
Dame Eleanor	Laing	MP	Epping Forest
Clive	Lewis	MP	Norwich South
Julie	Marson	MP	Hertford and Stortford
Jerome	Mayhew	MP	Broadland
Mohammad	Yasin	MP	Bedford
Rt Hon Lord Norman	Tebbit		House of Lords
Baroness Barbara	Young		House of Lords
Anita	Thornberry	Chief Executive	Haven Gateway
Dave	Hodgson	Mayor	Bedford Council
Andy	Williams	VP MedImmune	Astrazeneca
Antony	Bennett	Parliamentary Assistant	Office of Jo Churchill MP
Tom	Bennett	Head of Communications	Greater Cambridge Partnership
Emma	Green	Public Affairs Manager	British Sugar
Chris	Hayton	Public Affairs Director	MAG
Daniel	Johns	Head of Public Affairs	Anglian Water
Steve	Barwick	Secretariat	DevoConnect
Olivia	Tyrrell	Secretariat	DevoConnect

List of Attendees – meeting two

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Peter	Aldous	EofE APPG Co-Chair	Waveney
Daniel	Zeichner	EofE APPG Co-Chair	Cambridge
Paul	Bristow	MP	Peterborough
Jo	Churchill	MP	Bury St Edmunds
Jonathan	Djanogly	MP	Hungtingdon
Lucy	Frazer	MP	South East Cambridgeshire
George	Freeman	MP	Mid Norfolk

Rachel	Hopkins	MP	Luton South
Dame Eleanor	Laing	MP	Epping Forest
Clive	Lewis	MP	Norwich South
Julie	Marson	MP	Hertford and Stortford
Jerome	Mayhew	MP	Broadland
Mohammad	Yasin	MP	Bedford
Rt Hon Lord Norman	Tebbit		House of Lords
Baroness Barbara	Young		House of Lords
Rt Hon Lord Alan	Haselhurst	Chair, West Anglia Taskforce	House of Lords
Anita	Thornberry	Chief Executive	Haven Gateway
Dave	Hodgson	Mayor and Chair of Economic Heartlands STB	Bedford Council
James	Palmer	Mayor	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Cllr Kevin	Bentley	Chair of Transport East STB	Essex County Council
Derrick	Ashley	Executive Member, Growth, Infrastructure, Planning & the Economy	Hertfordshire County Council
Richard	Astle	Chair	Athene Communications Ltd
David	Baber	Director	DLP - Sustainable Development and Delivery Team
Charles	Baker	Public Affairs	Network Rail Anglia
Steve	Barwick	Director	DevoConnect
Antony	Bennett	Parliamentary Assistant	Office of Jo Churchill MP
Jade	Bennett	Account Executive	P.L.M.R
Tom	Bennett	Head of Communications	Greater Cambridge Partnership
Esther	Blaine	Communications Manager	Historic England
Neil	Border	Head of Policy	South East Strategic Leaders
John	Bridge	Chief Executive	Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce
James	Bristow	Senior Infrastructure Specialist	Homes England
Suzanne	Buck	Project Manager	Endeavour House
Greg	Callaghan		
Karen	Chapman	Growth Programme Partnership Manager	Suffolk Growth Programme Board
Tim	Chilvers	Planning Manager	Anderson Group
Linn	Clabburn	Programme Director	Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor
Helena	Coe	Policy Advisor	CBI
Aaron	Cohen-Gold	Public Affairs Manager	University of Cambridge
Graham	Cross	Managing Director	SLC Investments
Adam	Davies		
Roxanne	De Beaux	Cycling Campaign Officer	Camcycle
Lucy	Dean	Associate	Quod

David	Gelling	Managing Director	This Land
Dave	Graham	Consultant	DRG Consultancy Ltd
John	Grant	Chairman	Nine Tiles
Emma	Green	Public Affairs Manager	British Sugar
Chris	Hayton	Public Affairs Director	MAG
David	Henry	Director	Henry Consulting
Faye	Holland	Secretariat	Innovation Corridor APPG
John	Houston	Manager	One Epping Forest
Matthew	Hubbard	People Director	Lloyds Banking
Javeria	Hussain	Councillor; Vice Chair of London Luton Airport Ltd	Luton Airport
David	Hutt	Director	Gleeds Cost Management Limited
Mark	Ingall	Leader of the Council	Harlow Council
Ying	Jin	Director, Martin Centre for Architectural and Urban Studies	University Reader in Architecture and Urbanism
Daniel	Johns	Head of Public Affairs	Anglian Water
Clara	Kerr	Managing Director	Huntingdonshire District Council
Graham	Lambert	Managing Director	Vinci
Ann	Limb	Chair	UK Innovation Corridor
Clr Alan	Lion		Epping Forest District Council
Jean	McEvoy	Public Affairs Manager Anglia	Network Rail
Kay	Mead		East Herts. Council
Ismail	Mulla	Strategic growth and infrastructure	Enfield Planning
Ella	Murfet	Senior Planner	Turley
Jake	Nugent	Local Plans and Planning Applications	Endurance Estates
Naisha	Polaine	Senior Property Professional	DIT
Clr Danny	Purton		Harlow Council
Carlton	Roberts-James	Senior Partnerships and Business Development Manager	Homes England
Howard	Rolfe	Procurement Director	East of England Collaborative Procurement Hub
David	Royle		
Jackie	Sadek		UK Regeneration
Seena	Shah	Chair	East of England FSB
Hannah	Staunton	Head of External Affairs	East West Rail
James	Stevens	Director for Cities	Home Builders Federation
Mike	Stonard	Portfolio Holder for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth	Norwich City Council
Duncan	Symonds	Asset Manager Director	IFM Investors
Galvin	Tarling	Director	Gleeds Cost Management Ltd
Andrew	Taylor	Planning Director	Barratt David Wilson Homes
Peter	Taylor	Mayor	Watford City Council

David	Thomas	Group Public Affairs, Group Corporate Affairs	Lloyds Banking Group
Eime	Tobari	Social Value Strategist, Director	Cocreatif Limited
Alan	Todd	East of England Regional Policy Lead	Federation of Small Businesses
Richard	Tunncliffe	Regional Director	CBI
Olivia	Tyrrell	Political Research Manager	DevoConnect
Andy	Williams	VP MedImmune	Astrazeneca
Clr Timothy	Wotherspoon		Cotthenham

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