



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
Clive Lewis MP
Dr Dan Poulter MP

Secretary
Treasurer

KEYNOTE MINUTES

Infrastructure for a Net Zero East of England & The Region's Response and Recovery from COVID-19 - East of England LGA

10:00 - 11.30 Wednesday 4th November

Watch this session back here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSiYLSUauw&feature=youtu.be>

Daniel Zeichner MP - Welcome and Introduction

- Explained that the meeting will be in two parts:
 - *Part One* looked at the importance of collaboration, innovation and investment in order for the East of England to meet our 2050 net zero target.
 - *Part two* we will return to the subject of the region's response to, and recovery from, Covid-19
- Agreement of the last meetings recorded minutes, accessible via the EEAPPG website.

PART ONE

Infrastructure for a Net Zero East of England

Rachel Skinner, President, the Institution of Civil Engineers

- Noted that the main theme for her work as president in the year ahead will be Net Zero and Net Carbon through the lens of how engineers can assist in achieving the 2050 targets.
- Key to the movement to Net Zero (NZ) and Net Carbon (NC) is understanding that it is not singularly about an energy transition but a whole infrastructure systems transition.
- The reason being that the high demand for energy generated by non-renewable sources is because of the current infrastructure, including, transport, water, waste and others. Roughly 70% of the worlds carbon emissions can be linked back to infrastructure.
- ICE has recently commissioned work looking at the UKs carbon infrastructure toll and if the UK is on track it shows:
 - Carbon emissions relating to infrastructure have come down 23% since 2010
 - Mainly due to renewable energy and improvements in the waste sector
- However, this is not enough the UK needs to half the current emissions in the next decade to achieve the UNs 1.5-degree pathway.
- Three key points to achieve the halfling of carbon emissions.
 1. A stronger understanding of what N.Z and N.C means rather than using the terms as buzz words.
 2. Bring down the level of carbon emissions – climate mitigation is key. This has to be the 'utter priority'

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3. Climate adaptation – due to already baked in impacts of climate change, that even under best case scenarios will continue for 30 years.

- We need to introduce rapid change in the use and operation now and going forward when they are building the need for them to help rather than hinder the N.Z/N.C goals.
- The management and encouragement of blue and green natural infrastructure are key as is the introduction and development of new technologies.
- However new technologies are not yet at a level where it could be suggested they could form the main stay of any solution.
- In the East of England there is huge opportunity for growth and building a carbon balance. Huge opportunities for collaboration and innovation. The development of carbon thinking in all infrastructure will be key.

Nigel Cornwall, Director, [Hydrogen East](#)

- Highlighted the richness and diversity of the current clean energy economy in East Anglia (EA) and that he believes the EA is an energy powerhouse, noting that EA supplies currently:
 - Half of national offshore wind capacity
 - Acts as landing point for a third of GBs gas supply
- Currently has/provides over 200 Megawatts of consented battery storage projects, over 600 Megawatts of Solar in large commercial sites alongside small sites, potential access to Europe's largest Co2 storage network, the Sizewell Nuclear station (8% of domestic supply)
- Hydrogen East's strategy is placed based and bottom, the challenge to them is to build scale which will grow demand.
- First mayor project - SNS 2.0. Looking at assets at backburn and how they can be converted to hydrogen, from blue hydrogen and storage alongside green hydrogen as offshore wind increase.
- Second project in Suffolk, working with Sizewell and EDF with the possibility working up to the ports in the East of England.
- Third project, transport focused working with waste disposable and agricultural demand.
- There are real opportunities for the development of a regional hydrogen strategy due to the current and future energy assets in the EE, there are also many markets not traditional thought about that can be de-carbonised with the use of hydrogen.
- Only through successful deployment of hydrogen will we be able to be the UKs clean growth region and hit UK wide N.Z / N.C goals.

Jonathan Cole, Managing Director, East Anglia ONE/[Scottish Power Renewables](#)

- Argued N.Z is more than building windfarms – it is an economic and social transformation - we cannot wait until we have all the answers to act on achieving NZ, we need to deploy renewable energy and increase the electrification of the economy.

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- Welcomed the Prime Ministers' announcement at Conservative Party Conference regarding offshore wind. He also highlights the wider positive impacts of offshore wind including the job creation in post-industrial towns
- Highlighted the work of Scottish Power, that Net Zero and carbon transition is at the heart and forefront of the Carbon transition with EE the key to their ambitions. Projects in EE include:
 - EE One: Completed 2020 summer it now produces enough power for 600,000 homes in the UK. In this project there has also been a 30 million-pound investment in local ports, 4000 jobs created in the construction phase and a million investment on skills. EA One is only 20% of the total ambition of Scottish power in the region.
 - EA Hub: a group of further projects that amount to 3000 megawatts / 3 million homes powered in the UK.
- Highlighted issues and concerns around infrastructure, partially the location and amount of infrastructure being located on shore. He also notes that Scottish Power work with local people and communities in their own infrastructure decisions using, screen substations, moving cables, building haul roads and building flood defences.
- Called for a strategically planned offshore wind network which has better interconnectivity between the offshore zones, better resilience, less onshore connection points. However, as this would take years to achieve in the meantime offshore wind needs to be pushed forward sensitively while building the strategic network.
- More investment in needed in Ports as promised by the Prime Minister and that the Energy white paper need to be resiled, while continuing the stable price current set.

Peter Aldous MP

- Need for all MPs in the group to understand the wider benefits to the region rather than singular places within the region and highlights the importance of the APPG working together to give the region a voice in West Minister.

PART TWO

The Region's Response and Recovery from COVID-19

Professor Cheryl Davenport, Chief Executive, EELGA

- Explained the enquiry workshops on economic recovery, people and communities and new ways of working completed by the EE LGA over the summer and highlights the report that has been written as a concussion, which was used to inform the LGA CSR submission.
- The key asks for government were:
 - Increased investment in the region's regional rural broadband infrastructure

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- Meeting deficits sustained by councils impacted by COVID-19 response work
- Provide long-term funding settlements for Local Government.
- Provide support to maximise the use of community assets including retail space
- Achieve at least one free port in the East of England following the EU transition period
- Implementing a communications campaign encouraging agile or remote working 'by default' across all capable sectors.

Gregg McClymont, Executive Director, IFM Investors

- IFM is focused on long term investments, this long-term view has created the need to try and find a way to contribute to building an effective regional voice for the East of England.
- Highlighted two reports IFM commissioned - the first by Cambridge economics to look at the potential of the EE's economy which was published in February 2020; the second a report in West Anglian main line improvements, which calls for improvements to the mainline, reduce congestion and improve surface access to the airport.
- Gregg notes that Water companies already have a long-term infrastructure plan, and this could, with government approval and possible finance, be brought forward easily to drive build back better.
- Clear that the Northern Powerhouse and the Midlands' engine have, due to having an institution have an easier time getting their voice heard and says IFM is keen that EE should have a similar institution and while it cannot be IFM, they would be keen to support it.

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Attendee List

Duncan Baker MP, North Norfolk
Office of Jo Churchill MP, Bury St Edmunds
Office of Matt Hancock MP, West Suffolk
Rachel Hopkins MP, Luton South
Mr Gagan Mohindra MP, South West Hertfordshire
The Baroness Cohen of Pimlico
The Rt Hon. the Lord Tebbit CH
The Baroness Scott of Needham Market
James Allen: Business Resilience Manager, New Anglia
Steve Barwick: Director, DevoConnect
Jordi Beascoechea: Engagement Manager, East West Rail
Rodney Brook: Director, Sohn Associates Ltd
Rob Bush: Operations Manager, EEEGR (East of England Energy Group)
Karen Chapman: Partnership Manager, Suffolk Growth Partnership Board
Linn Clabburn: Programme Director, Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor
Simon Darby: Head of East of England, PLMR
Gareth Davies: Head of Sizewell C Supply Chain Engagement, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Mrs Julia Dunncliffe: Private Secretary to Lord Tebbit, House of Lords
Simon Grey: CEO, EEEGR (East of England Energy Group)
Emma Green: Public Affairs Manager, British Sugar
Cllr Linda Haysey: Leader, East Herts District Council
Gemma Head: SfE Programme Manager, EEEGR (East of England Energy Group)
Mayor Dave Hodgson: Elected Mayor, Bedford Borough Council
David Hutt: Director, Gleeds Cost Management
Charles Kitchin: CityFibre
Graham Lambert: Managing Director, Vinci
Dr Ann Limb CBE DL: Chair, Innovation Corridor
Tom McGarry: Head of Stakeholder Engagement, Sizewell C, EDF
Gill Morris: CEO, DevoConnect
Cllr Danny Purton: Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning & Infrastructure, Harlow District Council
Julia Pyke: Director of Sizewell C Financing & Economic Regulation, EDF
Trevor Reeve: Preconstruction Director, Construction London
Johnathan Reynolds: Managing Director, Opergy Ltd.
Jo Simmons: Business Development Manager, South East Local Enterprise Partnership
Tom Spencer: Public Affairs & Policy Officer, National Grid
Owen Stratford: Public Affairs Executive, DevoConnect
David Thomas: Regional Public Affairs Manager, South East & East, Lloyds Banking Group
Richard Tunnicliffe: CBI
Andy Walker: Head of Policy and Research, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Andy Williams: AstraZeneca

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