



East of England

All Party Parliamentary Group

Co-Chairs
Vice-Chairs

Secretary
Treasurer

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

KEYNOTE MINUTES

East of England APPG Inquiry into the Green Recovery in the Eastern Engine of Prosperity Evidence session one: Challenges and Opportunities for Building Back Business

WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 10:00 – 11:30

[Watch this session here](#)

Welcome and introductions – Co-chair Peter Aldous MP

- Welcomed all attendees and speakers to this, the opening meeting in the important, new Inquiry into the Green Recovery in the Eastern Engine of Prosperity
- Agreed the minutes of the last meeting - [here](#)
- The purpose of this first webinar is to scope the challenges and opportunities for building back better business following the economic and social impact of the pandemic. This opening session will be followed by evidence gathering meetings in March and May:
 - **Green Travel and Better Connectivity – with Minister Matt Warman MP (March 24th)**
 - **Net Zero Infrastructure – The East of England’s Road to COP 26 (May)**
- All the evidence, will be written up into a report with recommendations, agreed by the officers of the Group and then launched, hopefully in Parliament at Reception event on 29th June (although that may need to be pushed back to September.)
- The idea is that the session is as interactive as possible - please do ask questions in the “chat” and I will try to ensure as many of you speak as possible
- Welcomed the first speakers

Challenges and Opportunities for Building Back Business:

Chris Starkie, CEO, New Anglia LEP

- Covid-19 has taught us that the pace of change can be significant, especially with the economy
- In Norfolk & Suffolk [central to our strategy](#) is being the clean growth region
- There are 3 key sectors for us as a LEP
 1. Clean Energy – we have the largest offshore wind cluster which offers a huge opportunity to drive through green recovery
 2. Agri-Food – including the use of heat and land but this will need investment.
 3. IT/Digital – when we have the infrastructure key question is, how do you maximise digital skills and jobs now?
- What are the opportunities for us?
 - o We can provide 50% of the government’s gigawatt energy target by 2030
 - o Sizewell C
 - o Hydrogen is a key fuel we want to develop and become a hydrogen region
 - o Free port status for Felixstowe and Harwich
 - o Decarbonisation Academy – with Energy Systems Catapult – whole skills and training approach to retrofitting and housing
- What are the challenges? Scale and collaboration
 - o Scale – we need significant ambition and investment from partners
 - o Collaboration - need this to make sure we reach the scale and recognise the important role this region



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Hilary Chipping, CEO, South East Midlands LEP

- Agree with Chris that collaboration is the key to the green recovery
- We have also worked on developing our economic recovery strategy. Looking at business environment how we can support our businesses to access government funding and those places hardest hit?
- Believe there are 3 stages to recovery
 1. Survive
 2. Stabilise
 3. Grow - period in 2022
- Need to support innovation particularly around net zero a- providing everyday support for businesses
- Picked up through growth hub: businesses are feeling very under pressure in terms of pandemic, cost pressures, exiting the EU, digital move and working from home
- Any policy solutions that the Government are developing need to be simple, clear and easy to access: complicated access creates a barrier. Our businesses need support, and we want them to have it for example
 - o Low carbon workspaces – 1-5K businesses can make their workspaces more energy efficient
 - o Ordering online – transport needs to be energy efficient
- Key issue is that incentives to become more energy efficient aren't hitting home with the right people with some not finding it cost effective to make more energy efficient. Some landlords are locked into particular energy providers so the lower bills argument isn't hitting home
- Another issue is the need for better mechanisms for sharing energy. Energy strategy was developed a couple of years ago, and in some areas there is no more capacity for energy generation and in other parts, they don't need the energy they have. We should look at how we control energy and share demand
- LEP are linking up with Oxford-Cambridge Arc on a number of exciting projects
- Government can help with funding and we need the collaboration

Neil Hayes, CEO, Hertfordshire LEP

- We are seeing huge challenges in moving skills in declining sectors to those going into growth. This leads to many questions:
 - o 16–24-year-olds are not able to enter the job market: how do you make sure they go into future facing jobs?
 - o How do we transfer people into the clean growth sector?
 - o How do we service housing demand?
- Theme of today – asset based – how do we connect it all up?

THE EELGA perspective - Cllr Linda Haysey, Chair of EELGA

- Our region can fuel the nation's green recovery and support delivery of Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. With the UK's largest concentration of offshore wind production, a dynamic port infrastructure and significant nuclear power opportunities, we can generate a large proportion of the renewable energy required by the nation. However, we require substantial investment in the network and supporting infrastructure to achieve increased capacity.
- With the largest number of sea ports and airports of any region, the East of England is the UK's gateway to the globe. These also provide opportunities for a huge array of supporting businesses in the logistics and freight sector well placed along key corridors for the distribution of goods.



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- Councils across the East are experiencing significant financial sustainability issues as a result of the pandemic and deficits have run into the hundreds of millions. To adequately support the economic development and levelling up required in our region, councils need additional support from central government.
- The East of England benefits from a concentration of key business sectors that can support government's aim to achieve a green recovery. Our region's booming agritech, digi-tech and renewable energy sectors represent a real asset to the nation. We believe that Government should be focusing its support on sectors that can best support the environment, increase job creation and foster the recovery - whilst also decarbonising the economy.
- Two words that keep popping up – collaborative and accountable: We should all be working together to achieve more for the region. To read the full copy of Linda's remarks, please [click here](#).

Q&A / Comments – all

Daniel Johns, Anglian Water:

- Details of Anglian Water's plan for the year, including support for vulnerable customers:
<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/news/aw-prepares-for-future-challenges--with-largest-ever-year-of-investment/>

Covid-19 mass vaccination operational delivery

Tiffany Hemming, Director, East of England NHSE

- 10th week of vaccinations and we are on track to hit our regional target of 1.48 million people
- We are delivering to the cohorts in group 1 to 4
- 152 Primary Care Networks in the region (PCNs), formed 137 sites
- Have a large geography and rural areas – have to make sure older people can easily get to vaccine centres
- Some younger people have been resistant to getting the vaccine, especially young women in care homes

Thank you to speakers and attendees plus reminder of next meeting - Co-chair Daniel Zeichner MP

The East of England APPG is kindly supported by British Sugar, the East of England LGA, AstraZeneca, Haven Gateway Partnership, Anglian Water and Cadent:





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ATTENDEE LIST

Name	Role	Organisation
Peter Aldous	MP	Waveney
Daniel Zeichner	MP	Cambridge
Rachel Hopkins	MP	Luton South
Antony Bennett	Senior Parliamentary Researcher	Office of Jo Churchill MP
Letitia Davies	Parliamentary Researcher	Office of the Rt. Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Will Frost	Parliamentary Researcher	Office of the Rt. Hon Michael Gove
Adam Thorp	Programme & Policy Manager	EELGA
Andrew Williams	Vice President – Cambridge Programme & Strategy	Astrazeneca
Andy Walker	Head of Policy & Public Affairs	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Anita Thornberry	Executive Director	Haven Gateway
Brigitte Amoruso	Energy & Climate Specialist	Make UK
Briony Tuthill	Stakeholder Engagement Lead	Anglian Water
Catrin Preston	Intern	PLMR
Cheryl Davenport	Managing Director	EELGA
Cllr James Jamieson	LGA Chairman	Local Government Association
Cllr Mike Davey	Finances & Resources portfolio	Cambridge Council
Cllr. Andrew Proctor	Leader	Norfolk County Council
Cllr. Graham Plant	Deputy Leader	Norfolk County Council
Darren Elsom	Director of Eastern Network	Cadent
David Hutt	Director	Gleeds Cost Management Limited
Esther Blaine	Public Engagement Manager	Historic England
Graham Lambert	Managing Director	VINCI UK Developments Ltd
Hannah Reid	Director of Innovation & Business Development	Community Action Suffolk
Helena Coe	Policy Adviser	CBI
Ian Pease	Business Development Manager	OrbisEnergy
Ismail Mulla	Planning & Urban Development	Enfield Council
Javeria Hussain	Councillor; Vice Chair	London Luton Airport
Jean McEvoy	Senior Public Affairs Manager	Network Rail
Jo Simmons	Business Development Manager	South East Local Enterprise Partnership
Jordi Beascoechea	Engagement Manager	East West Rail
Julia Pyke	Director of Finance and Economic Regulation	EDF Sizewell C



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Lexi Brackpool	Managing Director	Furthermore Marketing
Martin Dronfield	Commercial Director	Opergy Ltd.
Matthew Adams	Policy Advisor.	Anglian Water
Mayor Dave Hodgson	Elected Mayor	Bedford Borough Council
Michael Chapman	Trade Business Adviser	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
Olivia Tyrrell	Research Manager	DevoConnect
Richard Gapper	East of England Regional Policy Lead	FSB
Richard Tunnicliffe	East of England Director	CBI
Robert L Parker	Chief Executive Officer	Beechwood Homes
Simon Gray	CEO	EEEGR
Steve Barwick	Director	DevoConnect
Tom Beckford	Account Manager	BECG
Tom McGarry	Head of Stakeholder Engagement	EDF Sizewell C
Tom Williamson	Senior Corporate Affairs Manager	Scottish Power
Tony Jones	CEO	One Nucleus

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