



# 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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

- 10<sup>th</sup> 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

| <b>Name</b>          | <b>Role</b>  | <b>Organisation</b>                      |
|----------------------|--|--|
| 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<br>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<br>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<br>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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