



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, Gagan Mohindra MP
Clive Lewis MP
Dr Dan Poulter MP

East of England Inquiry into *the Green Recovery in the Eastern Engine of Prosperity*
Evidence Session III: The East of England's Road to COP26
10:00 - 11:30 Wednesday 26th May
RE-WATCH THE SESSION: <https://youtu.be/swCFgJwHCfQ>

KEYNOTE MINUTES

Welcome and introductions

Peter Aldous MP

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting
- Agreed the minutes of previous meeting, [find here](#)
- East of England is a leading actor on the road to Net Zero - both a hub for offshore wind development that is taking place off our coast, and the enormous opportunities in green hydrogen and production

Part 1 - The East of England's role in the race to net zero: opportunities and challenges

Baroness Brown of Cambridge, Chair, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Climate Commission [\(Slides here\)](#)

- In the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area, our emissions per head are around 25% above the UK average, and they are falling more slowly
- This is partly because we are a growing region. It's also because we have very high per capita transport emissions
- Fast rise in the maximum temperatures – in Botanic Gardens in Cambridge 2019, we saw 38.7 degrees - the highest temperature in the UK
- Potentially suffering from significant risk of flooding – and in some areas where we have quite a lot of important infrastructure
- [Our approach](#) to this has been to emphasise to residents in the region the benefits the right kinds of policies have in delivering climate change mitigation; and making the East of England a region that is resilient to the ongoing changes that we will see in the climate crisis
- Local government have a key role to play especially in relation to transport and planning

Daniel Johns, Head of Public Affairs, Anglian Water Services Limited [\(Slides here\)](#)

- When we're thinking about the race to Net Zero, let's not forget the race to resilience - water scarcity and flood risks affect the East of England
- Anglian Water set their first climate change targets more than 10 years ago and committed being a carbon neutral company in 2016
- It is now committed to carbon neutrality/net zero target across the whole of the water sector by 2030 – each company publishing detailed plans this summer
- AWS becoming an energy company and will become a net exporter of clean renewable energy
- Working more in partnership with others within the region to help tackle their emissions - circular economy approach
- There are a multitude of ways in which AWS can solve what might be considered engineering challenges by working more closely with nature





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- Last December, AWS was given the green light from Government to accelerate £317million pounds worth of investment as part of a wider water industry effort on the green recovery
- How can we create the situation where investment to tackle those flood risk and water scarcity challenges, also unlocks economic regional regeneration and levelling up?
- Senior Task Force launched and attended by Stephen Barclay and new Mayor for Greater Cambridgeshire, Dr Nik Johnson, deliver this programme practice
- Looking at a combination of two new major reservoirs, which will address the water scarcity challenge.
- Designed in ways which also help manage the flood risk challenge by managing water levels in these major rivers combined with new downstream barriers and barrages built by the Environment Agency
- By addressing these things in combination, together with delivering greater biodiversity through open water channels, we think we can unlock regeneration in this part of the region

Q&A – All

Cllr Linda Haysey

- Local Government has an extremely important role to play in all of this
- Working much closer with developers or large house builders to build sustainable houses
- Need very strong policy changes, which may or may not come through in the new planning White Paper
- There is an issue regarding EV charging in old market towns, making sure they are safe and affordable – but please note a lot of our residents just cannot afford that extra premium of buying an electric car

Baroness Brown

- Agree with Linda (Cllr Haysey) that the focus is very much on housing and transport
- Local government and combined authorities should have more planning powers because the planning has to be relevant for the local conditions in terms of climate change
- As Daniel (Johns) has emphasised this is particularly important in terms of the impacts of climate change, and how we're going to need to adapt to those and the flood risks

Karen Chapman

- Balance between retrofitting existing homes and looking at the percentage of new stock
- Need mass engagement on behavioural change
- How does Anglian Water think we can take this forward?

Daniel Johns

- Agree it is really important to focus on behaviour change
- Important not to forget that it's really for the Government to take the big strides
- Very concerned about the Planning Bill, and what that will mean for both energy efficiency and water efficiency in the health public realm

Baroness Brown

- In some of our most impoverished areas in the region we're teaming up with a charitable foundation, to spend some intense time with residents.
- This will bring them up to speed to understand the challenge of climate change and what we need to do in their part of the region





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Part 2 - The East of England's role in the race to net zero: getting the infrastructure right

Sally Brewis, Regional Development Manager, Cadent

- We can't afford to use natural gas in the Net Zero world – however Cadent have around 80,000 miles of pipes and doing a significant amount of work already on hydrogen
- Hydrogen is a fantastic way of storing and supporting energy, helps decarbonise the hardest sectors such as heating, marine and transport
- Great opportunity for clean, green jobs across the region
- Cadent is planning a hydrogen local transmission system in the East of England
- Low-carbon hydrogen can be produced by nuclear or renewable energy

Sara Habib, Senior Project Manager, East Coast, National Grid [\(Slides here\)](#)

- National Grid (NG) operate at the heart of the energy system, connecting millions of people safely, reliably, and efficiently to the energy they use every day
- Regarding the Prime Minister's ambition of 40GW of offshore wind energy by 2030: NG have delivered 10GW of offshore wind over the last 20 years, which is world leading.
- We now need to connect 30GW in the next 9 years. Delivering this will require a significant amount of onshore electricity infrastructure across the east coast
- The scale and complexity of the new transmission infrastructure has not been seen since the building of the modern grid in the 1960/70's - work NG are currently leading and exploring jointly with others
- Goal is to understand the challenges, opportunities and timelines for how projects need to be resourced and key materials can be procured, so that the timescales for key decisions in order to meet delivery of 40GW of offshore wind by 2030 can be highlighted, particularly to key stakeholders, Government and our Regulator
- Alongside industry we are exploring engineering solutions, such as the use of multi-purpose interconnectors, coastal energy hubs, deployment of innovative network solutions and potential future proofing for using higher voltages out to 2050
- Local engagement remains an important priority for NG

Charlie Jordan, East Anglia Project Director, Scottish Power

- The perspective from offshore wind and how the industry can support Net Zero: we need to electrify the economy but to do this we need to be producing large quantities of clean, green energy at affordable levels
- Off the coast of East Anglia is an ideal place to have offshore wind: can be deployed at a large scale, quickly and be safe for offshore marine environments
- East Anglia One project is delivering 100 long-term skilled jobs over the 25 years, and 1000s of jobs in the construction – and helping the long-term goal of Net Zero
- Benefitted from great collaboration with Government: moved GW targets from 30 to 40; and put advancing offshore wind as point number 1 in the PM's 10-point plan
- Barriers include grid reform. Solutions are ten years away, but we must bring forward





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Q&A

Mohammed Yasin MP

- Can see plans emerging and happy with this informative session

Daniel Johns – Anglican Water

- Scale of hydrogen is very impressive! Costs of the transition
- Treasury to report NZ review shortly regarding how to share responsibility and cost
- If government sets out policies consistently then we will make progress so EV for example will become affordable
- Let's not limit ambition by costs but costs need to be shared fairly and transparently.

Conclusions – Peter Aldous MP, Co-Chair

- Is there a case for Climate cabinet for the whole region?
- Commended AWS for thinking outside the box
- Interesting to hear of the opportunities from National Grid investment/change
- Offshore wind farm is tremendous opportunity
- Letter to be sent to BEIS Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng

Other Attendees (apart from Speakers, Co-Chairs and Secretariat)

First Name	Surname	Job Title	Company/Organisation
Mohammad	Yasin	MP	Parliament
Jennifer	Allerton	Writer	Freelance
Greg	Callaghan	Director Land Development	Stantec
Karen	Chapman	Manager	Suffolk Growth
Helena	Coe	Policy Adviser	CBI
Cheryl	Davenport	Managing Director	East of England LGA
Roy	Elmer	Senior Manager	EE LGA
Jonathon	Foster	Senior Parliamentary Assistant	Office of Dr Daniel Poulter MP
Julian	Gibbs	Partnership Development Manager	Anglia Ruskin University
Linda	Haysey	Chair	EELGA
Tom	Horton		
Tom	McGarry	Head of Regional External Affairs	Sizewell C
Emma	Stewart	Account Manager	Cofinitive
Tom	Spencer	Public Affairs and Policy Officer	National Grid
Richard	Tunncliffe	Director	CBI
Jacob	Wallace	Public Policy Advisor	Anglian Water
Andrew	Williams	Vice President	AstraZeneca
Tom	Williamson	Senior Corporate Affairs Manager	ScottishPower
Tom	Yeldon	Parliamentary Assistant	Office of Peter Aldous MP

