

## **East of England plans increased economic growth while combatting climate change & levelling-up**

Political and business leaders from across the East of England are to present a roadmap to Government for achieving sustainable and inclusive growth throughout the region – while helping lead the UK's fight against climate change.

Representatives from the region will meet at the Houses of Parliament on Tuesday, October 19 at the East of England All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) reception, where the road map for the region's green future will be presented to ministers and MP's including George Freeman, the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation.

The presentation will be made by APPG Co-Chairs, Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney, Daniel Zeichner, MP for Cambridge and Cllr Linda Haysey, Chair of the East of England Local Government Association.

Partners in the region have identified four key priorities for investment in the East of England following the pandemic: delivering a climate positive region, ensuring sustainable and inclusive economic growth, improving connectivity and decarbonisation and securing the financial resilience of councils.

Linda Haysey, Chairman of EELGA (East of England Local Government Authority) comments:

“On Tuesday, we will make a positive case for the government to invest in the East of England's infrastructure, establishing the region as a global gateway for trade, powered by innovative partnerships that deliver sustainable economic growth.

Our region needs increased investment overall, and for this investment to be delivered in the right places, with local flexibility, to reap the greatest economic opportunities.”

The APPG's presentation emphasises that its investment priorities are designed to enable all the region's partners to contribute fully in delivering carbon net zero – a target which they believe could be achieved by 2050 or even sooner.

Optimising the region's connectivity is a key priority, says the APPG, with the investment needed to enhance the railway network, decarbonise transport and supercharge the region's broadband and 5G/4G coverage.

The APPG also argues that increases to local council funding should be provided over a longer time span and that councils should be given sufficient time to prepare good quality bids and greater flexibility and freedom to generate their own income.

Peter Aldous MP, Co-Chair of the East of England APPG, said:

“The East of England has a strong track record in making the most from any investment in our region, for example New Anglia LEPs Growth deal has already led to the creation of 3,005 new jobs, 2,189 learners, more than 800 homes and £676.4m of matched funding. Investment in a green recovery and levelling up in this region pays dividends – after all it is only one of three regions that gives more than it takes from the Treasury.

“I am sure, for example, that the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation will want to support our globally renowned life sciences sector, which were so instrumental in the development and delivery of the Astra Zeneca vaccine, so they can play their part in the green recovery.”

Daniel Zeichner, Co-Chair of the East of England APPG said:

“In advance of the all important Spending Review, I am delighted MPs and council Leaders have come together to put forward their agenda for building back better and levelling up the East of England . The

report, compiled after five evidence sessions at which twenty experts gave evidence, makes fifteen specific recommendations.

“Government support is requested to complement the activity of LEPs, sub national transport bodies and local authorities who are all driving forward the shared agenda of building back better, getting to net zero and levelling up.”

**ENDS**