



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

REVIEW OF EAST OF ENGLAND APPG MEETINGS IN 2021 AND PROPOSED THEMES FOR EAST OF ENGLAND APPG MEETINGS IN 2022

A) REVIEW OF MEETINGS IN 2021

Despite the ongoing pandemic, there has been a full calendar of virtual APPG sessions which this year were conducted via two inquiries: one focused on the Green Recovery in the Eastern Engine of Prosperity and the other on Levelling Up. These heard from a wide variety of speakers from across businesses and communities in the East of England as well as external experts, MPs and Peers – see summary below.

The evidence presented to these two inquiries informed a joint APPG and EELGA report - [Achieving Sustainable and Inclusive Growth: The East of England Offer](#) - which was launched at a very successful in-person Parliamentary Reception at which the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation, George Freeman MP, was the key speaker. Please see [here](#) for more information and photos.

The launch of the report has been followed up by letters to various Secretaries of State and Ministers – at BEIS, DLUHC, DCMS, DEFRA and DfT – highlighting the issues relevant to their Department that it raised. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps MP has been the first to reply with a very detailed letter - see [here](#) - and an offer to speak at a future APPG meeting in 2022.

Overall attendance, including wider stakeholders, has averaged more than 40. Attendance of MPs – or officers on their behalf - has averaged seven which is approximately 14% of the region's total. This level of attendance is similar to other regional APPGs although the number of Minister's addressing meetings has been a little disappointing. This is one issue – along with greater attendance by MPs – that will be addressed in 2022.

It is important to acknowledge the financial and other support of the Group's partners - AstraZeneca, British Sugar, Haven Gateway Partnership, Anglian Water and Cadent - who have supported the Group by funding the Secretariat function in 2021. In addition London Stansted Airport, Transport East and Greene King sponsored the Parliamentary Reception. For more information of the meetings held in 2021 and further details regarding the Group please visit the East of England website: <https://eastofenglandappg.org.uk/our-work/>

East of England APPG Inquiry into the Green Recovery in the Eastern Engine of Prosperity

1. Evidence session: The Green Recovery – Challenges and Opportunities for Building Back Business (February)

Speakers:

- **Chris Starkie**, CEO, New Anglia LEP
- **Austen Adams**, Chair, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Business Board (invited)
- **Hilary Chipping**, CEO, South East Midlands LEP
- **Neil Hayes**, CEO, Hertfordshire LEP
- **Cllr Linda Haysey**, Chair of EELGA





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

2. Evidence session two: Green Travel - low-carbon vehicles, active-travel, hydrogen buses (March)

Speakers:

- **Anita Thornberry**, CEO, Haven Gateway
- **Andrew Summers**, Chief Executive, Transport East (Subnational Transport Body)
- **Naomi Green**, Head of Technical Programme, England's Economic Heartland

3. Evidence session three: The East of England's road to COP26 (May)

Speakers:

- **Baroness Brown of Cambridge**, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Climate Commission
- **Daniel Johns**, Head of Public Affairs, Anglian Water Services Limited
- **Sally Brewis**, Regional Development Manager, Cadent
- **Sara Habib**, Senior Project Manager, East Coast, National Grid
- **Charlie Jordan**, East Anglia Project Director, Scottish Power

East of England APPG Inquiry Levelling Up in the Eastern Engine for Prosperity

4. Evidence Session One: The East of England's Coastal Communities – Regeneration, Tourism and Trade (July)

Speakers:

- **Sasha Morgan**, Director, Social Mobility Commission
- **Rodney Anderson**, Special Adviser to the Renaissance of East Anglian Fisheries Steering Group
- **Dr Andy Wood**, Chief Executive, Visit East of England (TBC)
- **Paul Davey**, Head of Corporate Affairs, Hutchison Ports

5. Evidence Session Two: The Agriculture Agenda in the East of England – are rural areas being “left behind”? (September)

Speakers:

- **Dr Nik Johnson**, Mayor, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- **Francesca Fraser**, Researcher, Onward ([Levelling up Growth-Enhancing Spending](#))
- **Phil McNaughton**, Environment Director, British Sugar
- **Adam Scott**, East of England County Network Manager, NFU
- **CLlr Linda Haysey**, Chair, EELGA





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

B) PROPOSED THEMES FOR EAST OF ENGLAND APPG MEETINGS IN 2022

Looking ahead to 2022 it would make sense to start with a focus on the four themes in the “Offer” report, namely:

1. Delivering a ‘climate positive’ region
2. Sustainable and inclusive growth
3. Improved connectivity and decarbonisation
4. Financial resilient councils

The Minister for Science, Research and Innovation, George Freeman MP, gave a strong message when he spoke at the Parliamentary Reception that **innovation** should be at the heart of the region’s approach to green growth, decarbonisation and levelling up. Meanwhile the region’s inward investment group has concluded that the East of England’s role as an **International Gateway** should be emphasised and a number of Group sponsors have suggested that **employment and skills** issues should also be a ‘golden thread’ addressed at all meetings.

In addition to the four topics listed above, it has been recommended that there should be a meeting about health services in the East of England. It had been planned to have a session on health inequalities in 2021 but with the advent of Integrated Care Systems (from April 2022) and the reform of social care, including upcoming Adult Social Care and Integration White Papers, plus launch of [Office for Health Improvement and Disparities](#), it will be appropriate to hold this session in 2022 when all six ICS chairs will have been appointed. This would look at the purpose of ICS reform and how they, with partners, plan to tackle the wider determinant of ill-health. In addition there would be a strong focus on innovation including greater data and science.

It is suggested that at each meeting there should be three main speakers: a relevant Minister, preferably one from the East of England; a relevant backbench MP from the region; and an external, national expert (eg think tank or academic). Relevant partners of the APPG would be invited to input and as usual all attendees would have the opportunity to contribute via Q&A. Please see over for illustrative examples of this approach.

It is also proposed that when Parliament is “open” again for APPG meetings the East of England APPG’s meetings should alternate between ones in person - which offer better opportunities for networking - and on line - which offer greater opportunities for attendance and save time, and carbon, by minimising travel.

There should be another Parliamentary Reception but it is suggested that this is the last meeting of the year in 2022 and held indoors on the Parliamentary estate such as the Attlee Suite in Portcullis House as happened in 2018. This could see the launch of a report that aims to influence the March 2023 Budget or if a 2023 General Election seems likely it could take the form of a Manifesto for the East of England.

In addition to the end of year report, it is suggested that responses to consultations are prepared for example particularly important Green and White Papers. There may be other occasions when it would want to present



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

Secretary
Treasurer

Clive Lewis MP
Dr Dan Poulter MP

to a Minister a region-wide perspective on an important and topical issue so the aim will be to ensure that each meeting is followed up by a letter to the relevant Department summing up consensus conclusions.

There has been some consideration given to the East of England seeking and adopting an academic partner. Other APPGs have the benefits of this support – for example the Liverpool City Region APPG which works with the Heseltine Institute. Managed by the Secretariat, an academic partner would help compile background or outcome reports and assist with the drafting of any final reports.

Please note there will always be some flexibility regarding the order in which to hold these meetings to accommodate Ministers' diaries and there may be a need for discussion of "emergency topics" as well as the headline subject.. There may also be a need for additional meetings. The following suggested programme is therefore open to amendment now as well as during 2022.

1. Levelling up in the East of England: Delivering sustainable and inclusive growth (Early February and in person)

Potential speakers:

MINISTER: Neil O'Brien MP, Levelling Up Minister – or an EE MP and Minister such as Therese Coffey MP, Work and Pensions Secretary and/or Jo Churchill MP DEFRA, Minister

RELEVANT EoE BACK BENCHER: Robert Halfon MP, Chair of Education Select Committee

EXPERT: Charlotte Aldritt, Director, [Centre for Progressive Policy](#)

PARTNER: Haven Gateway and Anglian Water

2. Integrated Care Systems: innovation to tackle health inequalities (April and online) – plus AGM

Potential speakers:

MINISTER: Lord Kamall, DHSC Minister (with responsibilities for health inequalities)

RELEVANT EoE BACK BENCHER: Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, former Health Secretary

EXPERT: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities; NHS England; ICS Chair (such as Professor William Pope from Suffolk and NE Essex ICS and/or Patricia Hewitt from Norfolk and Waveney ICS)

PARTNER: AstraZeneca and EELGA

3. International Gateway: Improved connectivity and decarbonisation in the East of England (Late May and in person)

Potential speakers:

EoE MINISTER: Grant Shapps MP, Transport Secretary

RELEVANT EoE BACK BENCHER: Giles Watling MP, Member of DCMS Committee (on digital)

EXPERT: Lord Deben or Chris Starkie, Climate Change Committee and/or Transport East

PARTNER: London Stansted Airport and Transport East





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

4. Delivering together: financially resilient councils and thriving private and third sectors (July and on line)

Potential speakers:

MINISTER: Kemi Badenoch MP, Minister for Local Government, DLUHC and/or Steve Barclay, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Cabinet Office*

RELEVANT EoE BACK BENCHER: Rachel Hopkins MP, Member of HCLG Committee and/or Dr Nik Johnson, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

EXPERT: CIPFA, Institute for Fiscal Studies or Institute for Government

PARTNER: EELGA

5. Delivering a 'climate positive' region: COP 26 one year on (early September/October and in person)

Potential speakers:

MINISTER: Greg Hands, Minister for Clean Growth or Andrew Griffith MP (net zero business champion)

RELEVANT EoE BACK BENCHER: Anthony Browne MP, Chair of All Party Parliamentary Environment Group or Duncan Baker MP, Vice Chair, Net Zero APPG

EXPERT: Baroness Brown, Chair CCC Adaptation Committee

PARTNER: Anglian Water, Cadent and British Sugar

6. Parliamentary Reception: Launch of EoE submission to 2023 Budget (early December: in person)

Potential speakers:

MINISTER: Simon Clarke, Chief Secretary to the Treasury or Steve Barclay, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster* (Cabinet Office)

EE APPG and EELGA CHAIRS: Peter Aldous MP, Daniel Zeichner MP and Cllr Linda Haysey

PARTNERS: TBC

It has been suggested that the new MP for Southend also be invited to speak at one of these meetings.

* Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP has responsibility for:

- devolution issues and strengthening the Union
- leading public services recovery from COVID-19
- leading cross-government and public sector transformation and efficiency

