



## East of England All Party Parliamentary Group

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Dear Neil

### **Levelling Up in the East of England: Delivering Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Wednesday 9th February, 2022**

As Co-Chairs of the East of England APPG, we are writing to thank you very much for speaking at yesterday's meeting. Your input and time were much appreciated. We have summarised some key points below and would like to request a private meeting with yourself to continue the candid, cordial and constructive dialogue that began yesterday.

In brief, the Levelling Up White Paper was welcomed, including its direction of travel towards:

- More local control over decision making, economic growth opportunities and funding, including for transport bodies (although an urban-centric view to allocating transport funding should be guarded against);
- Greater Government support to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth across our region (although there are some coastal communities notable by their absence from specific support);
- An understanding of the importance of skills and the allocation of Education Investment Areas - and specialist maths schools - in the region (although there are concerns regarding the lack of an Institute of Technology for Norfolk and Suffolk);
- Recognition that net zero is central to the levelling up agenda (although a target for gigabit and 4G broadband to 100% by 2025 would have been welcomed as would an allocation from DfT funding to trial road freight and maritime zero-emissions reductions)

However, a number of key concerns remain, especially regarding:

- The need for councils and others to move away from competitive and fragmented annual national funding pots;
- Whether there is a cast iron commitment that East – West Rail will reach Cambridge and if there is a firm timetable for when other east-west improvements including Haughley Junction upgrade and A47, A120 and A13 improvements will take place

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- Whether increasing funding for science, innovation and research activity outside of the Greater South East might be to the detriment of universities and research institutes in the East of England; and
- That small businesses in the East of England region appear to be excluded from the British Business Bank Regional Investment Funds to support SME finance

For your information please find:

- A link to the recording of the session including “chat” – click [here](#) NB use passcode: **.fz+N3A+**
- The slides presented by Allan Simpson of Anglian Water - click [here](#) to download.
- A link to [EELGA's detailed analysis](#) of the Levelling Up White Paper's 12 missions and their implications for local authorities and wider stakeholders

Once again many thanks for agreeing to speak yesterday and we very much hope that your diary will permit a follow up meeting with you in the Department in due course. Perhaps your officials would liaise with Steve Barwick, who has sent this email on our behalf, regarding a date and time that is convenient.

Yours sincerely



**Peter Aldous MP**

**Daniel Zeichner MP**

**Co-Chairs, East of England All Party Parliamentary Group**

*Sent on behalf of the Co-Chairs by Steve Barwick – the APPG Secretariat*

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