



## East of England

### All Party Parliamentary Group

Co-Chairs  
Vice-Chairs

Peter Aldous MP and Daniel Zeichner MP

Daisy Cooper MP, Jonathan Djanogly MP, Matt Hancock MP, Rachel Hopkins MP, Julie Marson MP, Gagan Mohindra MP, Andrew Rosindell MP, Giles Watling MP, Baroness Janet Cohen, Lord Alan Haselhurst

Secretary  
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Clive Lewis MP  
Dr Dan Poulter MP

## ***COP 26 One Year On – Realising the East of England's Potential Contribution to Achieving UK Net Zero***

**5 to 6.30pm, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November  
Committee Room 5, House of Commons**

### **NON-VERBATIM MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

#### **Introductions, welcome and context - Co-chair, Peter Aldous MP**

- *Peter reminded attendees the meeting today is focussing on climate change and will look in detail at how we can best realise the region's potential contribution to achieving net zero.*
- *He drew attention to the "very good" report prepared by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research*
- *The meeting accepted the resignation of Julie Marson MP, Vice Chair of the APPG, as she is now a Government Whip.*

#### **A national perspective - Lord Deben, Chair, Climate Change Committee**

- *Lord Deben began his remarks by saying that the situation is urgent and the next 8 years are crucial, but he wants to encourage neither pessimism nor over optimism. The Climate Change Committee has hopefully got the balance right.*
- *Young people do see how serious the climate situation is but direct action by some protesters can be counter-productive, although he has a great deal of sympathy with those who feel we are moving too slowly and not taking the issue seriously enough*
- *That said the UK has the best targets and commitments of any nation in the world regarding net zero and the new PM has reaffirmed his commitment to these targets*
- *But we have poor record on delivery. Current projections suggest plans for only 40% of emission reductions are in place*
- *Looks like a sensible programme will now appear – the link between reducing the cost-of-living and reducing energy consumption needs to be highlighted more to the public*
- *Local government have largely been good at setting out their net zero ambitions – central Government need to work with local government to achieve better results. Many good examples of partnership - Manchester, Birmingham - but could be more*

- *Renewable energy will benefit the UK financially in the longer term. Some say we cannot afford to do it but actually we cannot afford to not do it. And renewable energy is less expensive*
- *On shore wind should be looked at again– local people should be allowed to get an advantage if on shore wind developments are in their locality*
- *The main problem with nuclear energy is the public perception that it's always delayed and over budget. Important to keep public confidence in Government action on climate change*

#### **An East of England Perspective - Cllr Richard Roberts, Chair, EELGA Regional Climate Change Forum**

- *Richard Roberts began his remarks by reminding attendees that climate change is happening as evidenced by the fact that the Eastern Region is consistently getting drier and hotter*
- *EE has great assets including habitats and commercial activity but if sea levels rise 20% of Norfolk could be flooded*
- *As Chair of EELGA's Climate Change Forum the priority is sustainable development - we simply cannot carry on with same resource use as before*
- *50% of UK renewable energy will be generated in the East of England by 2030. If Sizewell C gets delivered the region will be energy sufficient in green energy and can become a huge energy exporter*
- *The Climate Change Forum should be seen as the vehicle for developing local government messages which can then be elevated to central government. It should also be viewed by the Government as the key conduit for engaging with East of England councils on this agenda.*
- *Councils in the East of England are seeking to be carbon neutral and have various dates to achieve this by. They employ large numbers and have a large supply base*
- *Also need to adapt to climate change for example improving our older stock of housing.*
- *Air quality is another focus: nothing or next to nothing should be going to landfill*

#### **Realising the East's Potential Contribution to Achieving UK Net Zero - Dr Kelly Manders, Cadent**

- *Dr Manders began her remarks by saying that Cadent is the UK's biggest distributor of gas - to 11 million homes and businesses - and that it is working to transition the gas network to hydrogen*
- *The East of England is fundamental to delivering our net zero targets and in addition providing greater energy independence and resilience. As a result, the East of England will see significant job creation and retention, high level skills growth, and GVA for the region*
- *The East of England is the "one to watch" with respect to the Hydrogen economy – with significant investments in both renewable energy/off-shore wind and H2 production all along the East Anglian coast (at Bacton, Lowestoft and Felixstowe)*
- *Cadent is currently working on two flagship projects – Capital Hydrogen and Hydrogen Valley*
- *Capital Hydrogen (supplying London, the East and South East of England) includes working with network of heavy industrial users such as Unilever, British Sugar, Hanson, the Ports and their operators: we know how much hydrogen is needed, where it will be produced, stored and how it will be transported across the region.*

- *The same story can be told for Hydrogen Valley which covers the West Midlands, and across to Peterborough and Cambridge – decarbonisation will NOT be achieved without the supply of Hydrogen from the East of England.*
- *Cadent is working to make hydrogen become one of the solutions for decarbonisation: through the design of new 100% H2 pipelines and repurposing the network; and through collaboration – bringing the producers together with the demand centres and end users.*

### **Realising the East's Potential Contribution - Lydia Dareheath, Anglian Water**

- *We are experiencing climate change already. There was a drought declared across the country over the summer but there was no hosepipe ban in the East of England! We need a wet winter to ensure that our reservoirs are full next summer*
- *Our region, the East of England, is the driest in the UK and very flat, meaning we face an especially significant risk of both drought and flooding. If we don't act now, we will start running out of water as soon as 2025*
- *Anglian Water have been involved in carbon and climate questions for a very long time. It attended COP in Glasgow last year*
- *Anglian Water was one of three companies that led the development of Water UK's Net Zero 2030 Route map launched by Water UK. It was the first sector-wide plan of its type anywhere in the world*
- *Anglian Water were the first water company to set ambitious targets on reducing both capital and operational carbon. We've exceeded our 2020 goals and are on track to reach, and help others to reach, net zero carbon by 2030*
- *The Whitlingham Greenhouse Project is a true example of the net zero, circular economy in action; it uses latent heat from the water recycling process to power large industrial greenhouses that are growing local produce. The facility has also created over 250 new jobs*
- *To ensure the East of England has a secure water supply for future generations Anglian Water has been adapting and improving resilience to extreme weather for some time.*
- *Over the last decade we have invested hundreds of millions of pounds to protect water supplies through schemes like a new water treatment works in Lincolnshire, the creation of back-up water supplies for Norwich, and a new scheme to move water from Rutland to Milton Keynes. These and other investments meant that water supplies in the East of England remained robust despite the drought throughout summer 2022*
- *There are also plans for two new reservoirs which are currently the subject of consultation*
- *Tackling leakage has been a priority for Anglian Water for years and the focus on this area has resulted in the lowest level of leakage in the industry.*
- *Combined with the fact Anglian Water has 90% of customers on a water meter, this means Anglian Water can see exactly where water is needed and manage the network accordingly in periods of drought*

- *We can expect more summers like 2022 in the future. Anglian Water are building a £400 million pipeline, which will span hundreds of kilometres to bring water from the north of their region (near Grimsby) to the dry south and east (near Essex) where water resources are less resilient. The scheme will be completed in 2025 and will be longer than the M6 motorway*
- *We're investing £4.7million to protect our vital infrastructure from the eroding Suffolk coastline. The work will include relocating three of our sewer pipes from the beach to Gunton Warren Nature Reserve. Once relocated, the local sewer network will be fit for the future.*
- *There are some epic and innovative things happening in the East of England – we have some of the best minds in the East and some of the greenest solutions. Anglia is determined not only to deliver the East of England with water, but also to enhance the environment*

### **Realising the East's Potential Contribution - Eilidh Campbell, East Anglia Hub, Scottish Power**

- *ScottishPower was a COP26 partner and through ScottishPower Renewables has been at the forefront of the renewables sector*
- *COP26 was a very important partnership for ScottishPower and worth remembering the impact it had including 13 days of negotiations, 120 world leaders attending and 194 countries represented. At the same time 34 UK Government Ministers attended.*
- *ScottishPower is a fully 100% renewable energy generator and the legacy of COP26 is taken account of in our East of England operations*
- *ScottishPower Renewables is a considerable employer in the East of England through its development of the East Anglia Hub.*
- *East Anglia Hub has invested to create off-shore green energy capacity for 3.5m homes and this development connects a range of local regional businesses not necessarily involved in the energy industry*
- *The Hub has worked with local supply chains to invest in companies locally and it understands its role in delivering a just transition.*
- *ScottishPower has created a successful apprenticeship programme which has created opportunities for younger people in the region with local people prioritised whenever possible*
- *This includes having a number of apprentices working on our offshore wind turbines from their Lowestoft Office.*

### **Q&A plus contributions**

Daniel Zeichner MP, Co-chair, thanked all speakers and invited questions. A number were raised including:

- *Should we go back to an Industrial Strategy for oil and gas industrial sector?*
- *Why does national grid shut down offshore wind when too windy?*
- *Given the climate challenge, does the East of England require higher building regulations?*
- *Decarbonisation depends on sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). Do you agree contracts for a difference could be used to scale up SAF?*
- *What possibility is there for the ban on on-shore wind generation to be lifted?*
- *Are large employers looking at sustainable transport solutions as transport produces 43% of carbon emissions?*

**A number of answers were given including:**

- *The reason for “wasting” energy is because electricity generation will not be decarbonised until 2030 – at that point excess energy can be used to create green hydrogen.*
- *Any planning applications now does need to take notice of the climate change (although that did not stop Cumbria approving the new coal mine).*
- *All homes built should meet energy efficiency and other climate change requirements.*  
*Potential role for LEPs*
- *The idea that we should have huge pylons across the East of England is wrong – deeply opposed to destroying diversity*
- *Scottish Power should have a ring main not individual stations – it is destroying Friston*
- *Anglian Water has done a marvellous job – no hosepipe ban!*
- *There is currently a government consultation on water efficiency labelling*
- *If councils could have procurement at a larger scale that would be cost effective and a change mechanism. For example, it might help us deliver fast charging for emergency vehicles.*
- *Sustainable Aviation Fuel is important but another chicken and egg issue. Demand needs to be there.*
- *Onshore wind capacity is there but it is not as good as offshore.*
- *Opportunity for a hydrogen rail demonstrator connecting East Midlands Freeport to Freeport East at Felixstowe.*

**Next steps and concluding comments**

Daniel Zeichner MP invited all speakers to give their recommendation for action by the Government to support the East of England’s efforts to move to Net Zero

- *Cllr Richard Roberts – a new standard on new developments so we only build the best*
- *Lord Deben – a windfall tax on house builders made available to homeowners to retrofit homes so get net zero housing. Planning should also have climate change targets built in*
- *Eilidh Campbell – Provide confidence to companies to invest and to incentivise collaboration*
- *Dr Manders – building regulations should also include reference to infrastructure that is around this for example low energy to heat. Also want to see a more balanced approach to decarbonisation with different solutions not one way*
- *Peter Aldous MP – the region faces enormous challenges – long coastline, low lying and dry; but it also presents opportunity – especially for renewable energy. Partnership must be at the heart of everything we do.*
- *Daniel Zeichner MP - we must also upgrade our existing building stock. It is vital local authorities are involved in this*

Daniel Zeichner MP – thanked all speakers and informed all attendees that the APPG will write to the Minister of State for Energy and Climate following this meeting.

## ATTENDEES (IN ADDITION TO SPEAKERS)

Name	Organisation
Daniel Zeichner	MP for Cambridge and Co-chair, EE APPG
Peter Aldous	MP for Waveney and Co-chair, EE APPG
CLlr Peter Schwier	Climate Czar, Essex County council
CLlr Katie Thornburrow	Cambridge Council
Constance Anker	Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority
Cheryl Davenport	EELGA
Adam Thorp	EELGA
Suzanne Buck	Suffolk County Council
Patrick Hall	MAG (Stansted)
Grant Tuffs	Anglian Water Services
Esme Yuill	Transport East
Becky Haywood	Greene King
Simon Markall	Scottish Power
Leo Vincent	E3G
Prashant Shah	CEO 02H
Daniel Lamb	Infrastructure Matters
Hugo Fulford	Infrastructure Matters
Theo Smith	Infrastructure Matters
Sebastian Prescott	Prescott Consulting
Stephen Barwick	Secretariat, East of England, APPG

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