



## East of England

All Party Parliamentary Group

**Co-Chairs** Peter Aldous MP and Daniel Zeichner MP

**Vice-Chairs** Lord Alan Haselhurst and Baroness Janet Cohen

Sent by email on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Lee Rowley MP and Minister for Housing

### REQUEST TO MEET

**Review of Progress Towards Levelling Up in The East of England:  
Report Back on Housing Priorities from the East of England Levelling Up Delivery Partnership  
Held 15:30 to 17:00 on Monday March 18<sup>th</sup>, Thatcher Room, Portcullis House**

We are writing to thank you for speaking at the East of England APPG meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. You will recall that a short report *'Act Now Before It Gets Worse'* - see [here](#) – listing the region's urgent housing priorities was launched with a slide presentation by Joanna Barrett of Eastlight Community Home – please see [here](#). The non-verbatim minute of the meeting, including a brief note of your remarks, is attached.

As you will recall there was little time to discuss the issues raised in the report which largely focused on the increasing strain that the requirement to provide temporary accommodation is placing on local government as well as its impact on the homeless families concerned. In particular three points were raised:

1. The need to rebase the temporary accommodation rate paid to local authorities to 2024 levels
2. Allow housing authorities to levy a 2% council tax precept for housing
3. Reform fiscal rules to incentivise long term public investment in social housing

The benefits of such an approach are many:

- Help to provide financial stability to local authorities
- Lead greater community resilience
- Avoid further tragedies by ensuring that vulnerable people are protected
- Lay the groundwork to help the East of England manage increasing populations – it was the fastest growing region by population in the last census ten year period.

**We were grateful that your address recognised the pressure for more housing, identified the need for Local Plans and referenced the Affordable Homes Programme but we would like to request a meeting to discuss in more detail the extreme pressures providing temporary accommodation creates and the various potential solutions that warrant further consideration.**

We would envisage being accompanied at a meeting by the Chair of EELGA and the Chair of Build East. Please could we ask that your officials liaise with Steve Barwick of the East of England APPG Secretariat – who has sent this email on our behalf - regarding finding an appropriate time and date that would suit all our diaries.

We look forward to hearing from you



**Peter Aldous MP**  
Co-Chair  
East of England APPG



**Daniel Zeichner MP**  
Co-Chair  
East of England APPG

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The academic partners of the East of England APPG are the Centre for Public and Policy Engagement at the University of Essex, The University of Cambridge, Anglia Ruskin University and the University of East Anglia.

