



Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group

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BUILD BACK BETTER INQUIRY:

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR A GREEN RECOVERY IN THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

NON VERBATIM MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 29TH JANUARY 12:00 - 13.30 – BY ZOOM

RE-WATCH THE SESSION HERE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfr9UdXSmrE>

Introductions and Welcome by Conor McGinn MP, MP for St Helens North

- Formal agreement of minutes of the meeting held on December 4th - [here](#).

Polly Billington, Director, UK 100

- Noted there has been a huge shift in attitudes towards dealing with Climate Change in recent years in both Government and local councils.
- Highlighted that this shift in attitudes can be seen in the UK100 members, 41 of whom are now targeting to reach Net Zero before the UK national target of 2050.
- Argued if we are to reach the country's legally binding Net Zero target some areas must move faster and further to accommodate those areas who will struggle to reach Net Zero by 2050
- Commented that while Whitehall and Westminster are convinced about the importance of Net Zero and Zero Carbon goals they are not, however, convinced of the importance of '*local*' in achieving those targets
- Until central government understand you cannot offshore climate targets the UK will not reach its Net Zero targets
- While climate does not fit in with normal political electoral cycles it is now seen as a long term problem that must be seen solved '*now*'.
- Concluded that City Regions are key to achieving Net Zero and that it is noted and applauded that Steve Rotherham and the Liverpool City Region have committed, and started to do the analysis required, to reach climate targets.

Paul Nowak, Deputy General Secretary, TUC

- Highlighted the move to Net Zero represents a huge industrial transformation and that historically in the North West there have been major issues for communities when industrial transitions have been left to the markets alone.
- Argued that the '*real work*' to ensure a '*just transition*' is done in workplaces, in partnership with employers, and with the combined authorities and with local partners

- Informed the APPG that the Green Jobs Taskforce has been set up by Government to create two million good green jobs by 2030 and that the main aims of the TUC and member union Prospect on the Taskforce are to:
 1. ***Make sure a 'just transition' is secured*** which is underpinned by good quality green jobs by ensuring every significant government investment in new green infrastructure demonstrates how it will deliver good quality sustainable employment, and how every pound of UK taxpayer money spent benefits UK supply chains. Furthermore, that all major infrastructure is covered by a London 2012 style framework in agreement with trade unions so that decent pay, good working conditions, and union engagement are the norm.
 2. ***Create a skills system that is fit for purpose***, ensuring investment into the further education system to allow for re-skilling and up-skilling.
 3. ***Make workers the heart of the Just Transition*** by ensuring union negotiation with every large employer, the creation of sectoral councils to co-ordinate transition plans across companies and at a national level create a national recovery council in the style of the BEIS Green Jobs Taskforce, bringing together, Unions, Employers, Local Authorities, Public bodies, Skills Providers and other stakeholders who will set the Government targets now and for the future on issues such as job creation and quality, skills provision, diversity, and making sure all have access to green jobs.
 4. ***Ensure Government puts place at the heart of the Net Zero and industrial strategy*** by ensuring power and resources are given to devolved authorities to develop Net Zero approaches that build on the strengths and local opportunities identified by local stakeholders.
 5. ***Push Government to be more ambitious and engaging.***

Sarah Longlands, Director, IPPR North

- Congratulated the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for being one of the first City regions to commit a Build Back Better plan to paper.
- Argued that Build Back Better should be about a better future and that the North must be a region where everyone has the ability to live a good life.
- Highlighted that even pre-pandemic the regional inequalities in the UK are amongst the worst in Western Europe.
- Informed the APPG that the IPPR North, 'State of the North' report argues 'build better now.'
- Calls for the Government to re-think the assumptions that under-pin initiatives such as Levelling up or Net Zero which are led by the centre.
- Argued that heat pumps are the most useful technological pathway to create change at scale however there are key challenges in demand and supply and shortage in skills in fitting.
- The Liverpool City Region has a high proportion of older housing stock that requires national investment and a dedicated, locally led, retrofitting scheme.
- Commented that there is huge momentum in the de-carbonisation of social housing and Government should use this an opportunity to match fund, drive down cost and improve skills and the ability to create new businesses.
- Highlighted that fuel poverty in the LCR is a huge issue and the de-carbonisation of housing provides a huge opportunity to improve the lives of residents in the LCR by solving this issue.
- Concluded that the government needs to adopt a holistic joined up approach to its multiple agendas of levelling up, Net Zero, De-carbonisation and up-skilling. Devolution of powers to the regions will be key to the ability to deliver the Government's agenda and must be at the heart of the Government's plans.
- Central Government must invest into technological pathways and de-risk the road to de-carbonisation for business ensuring confidence in the markets. Furthermore, there is a real opportunity to invest in jobs and skills however this must be through a 'just transition' making sure more and not less Northern workers earn the living wage.

Steve Rotherham, Metro Mayor, Liverpool City Region

- Highlighted that Liverpool's resources and location give it an enormous opportunity to push forward with a green recovery and that the Liverpool City Region aims to be net zero by 2040.
- The Mersey Tidal Power Project is a potential asset that can operate for over 120 years and could provide electricity to around one million homes and has passed multiple viability tests.
- It has the ability to be the LCR's silver bullet to its Net Zero goals, providing an untapped alternative to fossil fuels.
- Argued that the LCR would 'clean up' local transport by creating a fleet of zero emission hydrogen busses with eight zero carbon fuel stations to be complete by December 2021; investing £0.5 billion in cleaner trains; investing £8 million in active travel across the LCR; continuing the most successful e-scooter pilot in the UK; and working towards a 'London style' integrated transport system.
- Informed the APPG that it is the LCR's aim to triple the volume of electricity generated by wind in the city region by 2032; to be one of the first regions in the country to replace methane with hydrogen at scale via our gas networks, by getting hydrogen into domestic properties by 2035; and via 'Glass futures' to lead the way globally in the de-carbonisation of carbon intensive industry.
- Concluded that the recovery plan submitted to Government by the LCRC provides UK PLC with opportunities for investment with huge return while allowing the LCR to be able to action de-carbonisation measures that will put the LCR at the forefront of green technologies.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Emily James, Head of Public Affairs, Abellio

- Asked how, post-Covid, do we re-populate public transport and grow confidence in the sector once more to achieve the green recovery?

James Stevens, Director for Cities, Home Builders Federation

- Argued a gradual programme to zero carbon ready homes by 2025, and zero carbon homes by 2030 is necessary. Otherwise, there will be unrealistic mandatory requirements that mean that homes cannot be lawfully built. The house building industry provides many jobs and billions of pounds in revenues to local and national Government. We will need those jobs over the next few years.

David Dunlop, Senior Conservation Officer for Policy, The Wildlife Trust:

- Argued that we are in the midst of a climate and ecological emergency that are inextricably linked.
- Asked how can we work together to deliver green jobs across all sectors in Liverpool City Region?

Conclusions and Thankyou by Conor McGinn MP, MP for St Helens North

ATTENDEES:

Ian Byrne MP	Liverpool, West Derby	Lynn Collins	Regional Secretary, TUC North West
Dan Carden MP	Liverpool, Walton	Stephen Cowperthwaite	Managing Director Liverpool, Avison Young
Peter Dowd MP	Bootle	Rachel Cripps	Senior Conservation Officer, The Wildlife Trust
Margaret Greenwood MP	Wirral West	David Dunlop	Senior Conservation Officer for Policy, The Wildlife Trust
Conor McGinn MP	St Helens North	Paul Hadley	Deputy Director of Economic Development, The MTC
Mick Whitley MP	Birkenhead	Ross Harding	Planning & Ecology Officer, The Wildlife Trust
Office of Maria Eagle MP	Garston & Halewood	Emily Hindmarch	Policy and Public Affairs Assistant, Changing Lives
Steve Rotherham	Metro Mayor, Liverpool City Region	Fiona Inglis	Senior Corporate Affairs Manager, Scottish Power
Polly Billington	Director, UK 100	Emily James	Head of Public Affairs, Abellio
Sarah Longlands	Director, IPPR North	Gaynor Kenyon	Corporate Affairs Director, United Utilities
Paul Nowak	Deputy General Sectary, TUC	Gill Morris	CEO, DevoConnect
Bill Addy	Chief Executive, Liverpool BID Company	Bronwen Rapley	CEO, Onward Homes
Steve Barwick	Director, DevoConnect	Nick Smith	Regional Growth Manger – Liverpool and Wales, Avanti West Coast
Faye Bolan	Fellow, UK Parliament POST	James Stevens	Director for Cities, Home Builders Federation
Karon Brownbill	Vice Principal, The City of Liverpool College	Ciarán Tully	External Affairs Manager – North West, NHF
Dominic Coleman	Government Relations & Public Affairs Officer, LCR CA	Tom Williamson	Senior Corporate Affairs Manager, Scottish Power

APOLOGIES:

Attendee	Role and Organisation
Alison McGovern MP	Wirral South
Sir George Howarth MP	Knowsley
Lord Hunt	
Professor Denise Barrett-Baxendale	Chief Executive Officer of Everton Football Club
Elaine Bowker	CEO, The City of Liverpool College
Jonathan Brown	Chairman, Hill Dickinson LLP

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