



## Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group

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### Liverpool City Region APPG AGM & Build Back Better Inquiry: Creating good jobs and necessary skills for a green recovery in the Liverpool City Region

Friday 12th March 12:00 - 13.30 – By Zoom

Re-watch the session here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3rldiR6R08>

#### Non verbatim minutes

##### Introductions and Welcome

- Welcome and introductions by Chair, Alison McGovern MP, for Wirral South.
- Formal agreement of minutes of the meeting held on January 29<sup>th</sup> - [here](#) – and matters arising. None raised.
- Income and expenditure form – [here](#) – agreed.
- Formal AGM: resignation of Alison McGovern MP as APPG Chair and election of Kim Johnson MP for Liverpool Riverside as APPG Chair; no other changes made.
- Thanks given to Alison McGovern MP for her time and work as Chair and introduction to the Inquiry session by Kim Johnson MP.

##### Dame Judith Hackitt, Chair, Make UK

- Noted the pandemic has shown the importance of a strong and thriving manufacturing base in the UK and that many manufacturers repurposed their business to produce ventilators, PPE, sanitizers and vaccines.
- Communicated that the budget brought mixed messages, with some good news in the extension of GRS and support for innovation measures to boost investment. However, there were major concerns with the change in Government messaging regarding the industrial strategy and lack of sufficient attention given to Net Zero.
- Argued manufacturers understand the challenges and opportunities in reaching Net Zero and want to see solutions to these challenges reflected in Government policy.
- Explained nearly half of Make UK manufacturers say that infrastructure projects focusing on green energy should be prioritised and that Make UK think that it is also key that manufacturers themselves are encouraged to invest in green technologies.
- Informed the APPG that Make UK are working with other business sectors through the Business Action Council regarding what skills need to look like for the future and that both the Council and Make UK thinks Government needs to put emphasis around creating Green and Digital skills and that this will aid more young people to get into manufacturing.

- Commented that despite the industry pushing for a national Skills Task force there had been little traction from Government, and as a result the industry has now formed a national skill task force.
- Explained that numbers of Apprenticeships have gone down and argued Government, industry and the skills sector needs to work hard to build them back up: green skills should play a large part in this.
- Reported that the membership of Make UK North West are cautiously optimistic regarding the recovery. That all members are reporting that their order books are filling, however that they are still challenged by Covid restrictions and also the Brexit transition.
- Concluded that Make UK believe there is a great opportunity in building back better for a greener and more digital sector however that they need more overt support from Government for that agenda to succeed.

##### Andrew O'Brien, Director, Social Enterprise UK

- Reported that across the North West there are 10,000 social enterprises employing 200,000 people contributing about £5 billion to the economy. Within Liverpool, there are several thousand social enterprises, about 50,000 jobs and around £1 billion contributed to the local economy.
- Highlighted that pre-covid 46% of 'green' social enterprise in the LCR wanted to hire more staff, and that 40% of the sector looks to hire from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Explained that the 'Triple bottom line' - looking at people, the planet and financial suitability - allows Social Enterprise to act differently and create Green, Net Zero, people focused businesses that support building back better and the Net Zero transition.
- Praised Steve Rotheram for his work in launching the Kindred Fund and argued there needs to be more devolution of power to Mayors and Local authorities to continue this type of work.
- Argued the environmental and social value in public procurement should be maximised by making consistent measures of environmental green and social performance.
- Further argued that the current tax system does not work for social enterprise and that corporation tax and national insurance payments should recognise the work of social enterprise in the community and the support they give to staff from vulnerable backgrounds.
- Concluded that if the issues of finance, tax and procurement are solved then social enterprise can be turbocharged with the great work of the LCR social enterprise sector multiplied; also that they would help the city region hit the 2030 target to cut business emissions.

##### Steve Rotheram, Metro Mayor, Liverpool City Region

- Noted his support for extension of furlough and the announcements regarding Southport town centre.
- Highlighted freeport status as a positive however noted very clear red lines in terms of workers' rights, pay and conditions and also environmental and regulatory protections that would have to be agreed before the freeport developed into a real entity.
- Argued that overall, the budget fell short of anything approaching the long-term economic plan for recovery needed by the city region.

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- Further argued that the Chancellor needed to fully refund local councils for extra covid expenditure, as he had promised.
- Noted Government seemed to have gone cold on devolution and seem instead to be taking power back into centralised power structures.
- Argued that Government is not levelling up and that the current strategy will only exacerbate current inequality. Furthermore, that you cannot renew communities or “level up” with top-down governance and that you actually need a strategic overview and wide and powerful devolution.
- Further explained to the APPG the LCR submitted an evidence based economic recovery plan to Government eight months ago and are still waiting for it to provide real feedback. The plan asked for £1.4 billion of investments that would see UKPLC get £8.8 billion in return.

#### Chris Warhurst, Warwick Institute for Economic Research & author of Green job vacancies in LCR

- Explained that while there is discussion and debate about green industrial revolutions, circular economies, and sustainable economies there is no definition of what those things are.
- Noted that in terms of demand by occupation in LCR for green jobs there is an average amount of ‘high’ and ‘middle’ skilled green jobs but less than average in low skilled green jobs.
- Further noted that Liverpool City Region has less “pure green” jobs but a good stock of greening jobs from previously brown industry.
- Said that when looking at green and ‘greening’ job demand by industry, LCR’s got more of those jobs in the hospitality industry and less in utilities including gas, water and sewage and less in IT.
- Explained that when looking at the type of skills that employers want, they tend to look at existing experience and skills, with little demand for “pure green” skills in the Liverpool Labour market at the moment.
- Argued Liverpool needs to stimulate demand around both green jobs and brown jobs, which might be greening, and think about how they might attract new jobs and how to help employers adapt and transform those jobs to be greener.
- Highlighted the need for coordination between local government, employers and training providers - underpinned by good data - so everybody knows what they’re talking about and knows where they’re heading too.
- Concluded that trade unions, employers, training providers and local government researchers should work closely to coordinate their what their needs, and resources, are and push forward together to create a greener future for LCR.

#### Dr Charlie Whitford, Regional Director, The MTC

- Highlighted that it is well recognised by both Government and industry that developing modern digital production approaches improve productivity, reduce waste, reduce carbon and improve health and safety and well-being for us and our environment.
- Informed the APPG that markets and supplies still struggle to adopt to these approaches at scale due to significant barriers including fragmented pipelines; perceived market constraints;

a lack of supply chain coordination; and an absence of leadership and the skills industry requires.

- Argued that if we effectively address these barriers, then we can collectively convert challenges into opportunities for businesses, people and our communities while also reducing social inequality.
- Highlighted opportunities to create jobs in a Green economy missed in the past. Historically only a quarter of the lifecycle cost of UK’s windfarms was spent within the UK. This has only increased in more recent times to 43% - which now faces the added challenge of mature overseas competition.
- Said that an opportunity to deliver a green economy in our domestic housing market has been missed and there are more homes in the UK that require retrofit solutions to meet our climate targets than there were when the 2008 Climate Act was passed.
- Explained that there are identifiable future market-based opportunities for a green recovery in the LCR; hydrogen, tidal power, freeport and housing to name a few.
- Highlighted the challenges in converting these opportunities into green jobs are similar across all sectors which undermines investor and business confidence and leads to sub optimal growth.
- Further argued that we need to provide coordination across supply and demand, working together with the private sector. The National Centre of Excellence in Modern methods of Construction seeks to address this.
- Thanked members of the APPG for their letter to the Housing Minister last year.
- Explained as a result of this and the support for the project from the Metro Mayor, the Chancellor Exchequer asked in December for the submission of a full business case for the National Centre based in LCR.
- Highlighted the opportunity for the Centre, in addition to housing benefits, to provide the supply chain with the tools and capabilities to deliver green jobs, and with it, demand for modern approaches at scale.
- Further highlighted the Centre will create an opportunity to inspire young people into these sectors with the introduction of, and demand for, digital, green and clean assembly-based skills at all levels.
- Concluded that to achieve this requires foresight, commitment, clarity, collaboration and coordination, as well as leadership.

#### OPEN DISCUSSION

#### Bill Esterson MP, Sefton Central

- Highlighted he was pleased to see Steve Rotherham taking a robust approach to freeports in terms of workers’ rights and environmental standards.
- Argued freeports could also move rather than create jobs so there needs to be a very close look at plans and proposals before agreeing a freeport in the LCR.
- Also argued investment in manufacturing needs to be across SME’s and large firms and that SME’s are often overlooked.

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#### **Marie Rimmer MP, St Helens South**

- Argued central Government need to prioritise housing, retrofitting and skills.

#### **Steve Rotherham, Metro Mayor, Liverpool City Region**

- Highlighted that Liverpool has had 'freepoint status' previously however that the full details of the new freeport are unclear so it may be very different.
- Explained that no one in the UK currently has an actual freeport as a full business case still needed to be submitted and that workers' rights, job displacement and environmental rights would be addressed in the business case.
- Argued that while there may be issues the LCR cannot be left behind while other areas of the country enjoy the benefits freeport status.
- Noted that housing and retrofitting plans are set out in the LCR's economic plan which was submitted to Government and that the plan included how the LCR can use MMC.
- Explained that the LCR want to retrofit and look at hydrogen boilers and other new technologies and that the LCR have proposed to Government trials in the LCR of 6500 homes.

#### **Margaret Greenwood MP, Wirral West**

- Highlighted that in the UK we have 9 million adults who are functionally illiterate and if we want a just transition these people need free education to support them in development of digital, reading and numeracy skills.
- Asked Steve Rotherham what are the plans in the LCR to region to address what is a very profound social injustice in relation to those people.

#### **Steve Rotherham, Metro Mayor, Liverpool City Region**

- Argued for Department of Education reform and further devolution of powers in education, skills and training.
- Highlighted the work of the LCR including pilot projects to find the best way to engage people back into education and the creation of a strategic overview of the educational and skills needed in the LCR.
- Explained that in Glass Futures there is a pilot that, if successful, can be translated into all industries and establish the LCR as a leader in net zero and green industry.
- Highlighted that Glass Futures and other net zero work was in collaboration with Cheshire, Warrington and Manchester and that together they have submitted plans to attend COP 26 and show a comprehensive offer from this geographical area.

#### **Baroness Hooper**

- Explained she had been asked to lead the trade envoy covering three Latin American countries
- Highlighted the strong and historic links between Latin America and Liverpool

- Further highlighted the current opportunities to develop trading links with Latin America
- Asked whether the businesses and manufacturing sector in LCR would be interested in building links with these Latin American countries in order to increase their potential for exports and UK export finance to come forward.

#### **Andrew O'Brien, Director, Social Enterprise UK**

- Expressed interest in Baroness Hooper's initiative and explained that social enterprises may be interested. He offered to contact her outside of the meeting.

#### **Kim Johnson MP**

- Thanked the speakers, attendees and APPG sponsors and concluded meeting.

#### **Attendees**

**Maria Eagle MP**, Garston & Halewood

**Bill Esterson MP**, Sefton Central

**Margaret Greenwood MP**, Wirral West

**Kim Johnson MP**, Liverpool Riverside

**Alison McGovern MP**, Wirral South

**Marie Rimmer MP**, St Helens South

**Lord Hunt of Wirral**

**Baroness Hooper**

**Steve Rotherham**, Metro Mayor, Liverpool City Region

**Dame Judith Hackitt**, Chair, Make UK

**Andrew O'Brien**, Director, Social Enterprise UK

**Chris Warhurst**, Warwick Institute for Economic Research and author of Green Job Vacancies in LCR

**Charlie Whitford**, Associate Director, The MTC

**Steve Barwick**, Director, DevoConnect

**Denise Barrett-Baxendale**, CEO, Everton Football Club

**Johnathan Brown**, Hill Dickinson LLP

**Dominic Coleman**, Government Relations & Public Affairs Officer, LCR CA

**Paul Hadley**, Deputy Director – Economic Development, The MTC

**Emily James**, Head of Public Affairs, Abellio

**James Jordon**, Corporate Engagement Officer, Transport for the North

**Gaynor Kenyon**, Corporate Affairs Director, United Utilities

**Sarah Lovell**, Lead officer Culture Coordinator, Liverpool City Region

**Gill Morris**, CEO, DevoConnect

**Kara Stevens**, TUC North West

**Owen Stratford**, Public Affairs Executive, DevoConnect

**Olivia Tyrell**, Political Research Manager, DevoConnect

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