



All-Party Parliamentary Group for 'left behind' neighbourhoods

Inaugural meeting – held online by Zoom

4.30pm, Wednesday 17th June 2020

Minutes of the Meeting

Present:

Paul Howell MP
Gill Furniss MP
Tony Lloyd MP
Ian Levy MP
Jack Brereton MP
Nicola Richards MP
Richard Holden MP
Christian Wakeford MP

Apologies:

Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP

In attendance:

Jonathan Vasey, Office of Paul Howell MP
James Cleverley, Office of Gill Furniss MP
Kate Winstanley, Office of Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP
Sam Julius, Local Trust and APPG Secretariat
Daniel Crowe, Local Trust and APPG Secretariat

1. Election of Officers

Sam Julius on behalf of the APPG Secretariat opened proceedings of the inaugural meeting, welcoming members and noting that it might be the first APPG to hold its inaugural meeting online. He invited members to make nominations for the position of APPG Co-Chairs.

Christian Wakeford MP nominated Paul Howell MP and Gill Furniss MP as Co-chairs of the APPG, seconded by Tony Lloyd MP. This was approved unanimously.

It was suggested and approved unanimously by members present that the APPG Vice-chairs and Officer positions, as featured in the agenda for the meeting, be elected en masse.

Nicola Richards MP and Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP were elected as Vice-Chairs. Three Officers were elected: Jack Brereton MP, Ian Levy MP, Sharon Hodgson MP.



2. Introduction of Local Trust as the Secretariat to the APPG

Sam Julius outlined Local Trust's role as Secretariat to the APPG, how it is a resource at the service of the APPG and its members, with the shared goal of securing investment in England's 'left behind' neighbourhoods. He introduced Daniel Crowe, Senior Policy Officer at Local Trust as the contact point for the APPG, and Margaret Bolton, Local Trust's Director of Policy who is available to support the work of the group.

3. Work Programme

Sam Julius made reference to the APPG's draft work programme, which would be re-issued to APPG members for feedback.

4. Timetable

Members discussed when to begin the work of the APPG, with the APPG Chairs proposing that the group meet online before the summer recess. Sam Julius agreed to contact members to find a mutually convenient date to hold the first APPG evidence session in July.

5. AOB

Members briefly discussed some of the implications facing 'left behind' neighbourhoods, particularly as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Gill Furniss MP asked about research into the health inequalities thrown up by Covid-19. Sam Julius confirmed that new research would provide fresh data on the health implications.

Jack Brereton MP pointed to the importance of looking at meeting the needs of 'left behind' neighbourhoods and other pockets of deprivation from a local authority perspective, and Tony Lloyd MP observed that local authorities were often the most appropriate channel and structure for achieving change in a locality. Sam Julius informed members of Local Trust's engagement with local authorities, and the work currently underway to get them signed up to input into the APPG and its work programme.

Christian Wakeford MP observed how timely it was to be doing this vital work, and Paul Howell MP noted that Local Trust was the right organisation to be supporting the APPG. He stressed the importance of understanding what it is the group will be looking at in order to get funding into the right communities, and that he looked forward to cracking on and finding a way to get it done.

Sam Julius briefly informed the APPG of Local Trust's work in developing the APPG website and social media channel, and closed the meeting after thanking members for their participation.