

All Party Parliamentary Group for London AGM report

July 2016

AGM Report for APPG for London

Date and time: Tuesday 12th July 2016, from 3 – 4pm

Location: Room M, Portcullis House

Subject: AGM, discussion of themes for 2016-7 and annual review.



1. AGM

Re/election of group officers. The current officers were all re-elected.

Co-Chairs: Bob Neill MP & Steve Reed MP

Secretary: Catherine West, Treasurer: Paul Scully

2. PLANS FOR 2016 – 2017 MEETINGS

The group might like to consider themes for next year's meetings – ideas listed below. In addition, it may be useful to consider re-visiting / progressing some of this year's themes again (see point 4 below). The AGM selected three themes (highlighted & underlined) as the topics for the autumn meetings.

- Infrastructure
 - Public transport including Crossrail 2, TfL re Bakerloo line and other plans and Lord Adonis of the National Infrastructure Commission
 - Transport, inc. roads & capacity, plus issues of tunnels, congestion, and river crossings
 - Housing (with London Society possibly)
 - **Rail, especially issues with suburban rail - deficiencies and options for devolution to TfL**
 - **Airport capacity in the south-east: options**
- **Impact of Brexit on London and cooperation to ensure London's future progress**
- Devolution also relating to
 - Skills
 - Health
 - Business rates
- Safety and resilience, including
 - Knives and youth crime
 - Safety and policing (community safety)
 - Extremism (including schools and universities)
 - Flooding (both the planning and resilience aspects)
- Employment, low pay and prospects
- Promoting London's financial sector / financial services contribution to London's economy
- New Mayor of London

3. Review of progress over the year. Members may wish to review the progress of the group.

Group and secretariat progress.

- Set up. Group was set up immediately after the 2015 general election with the secretariat being provided by London Councils and the GLA.
- Registration. First registered with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on 28 May 2015. The group now needs to be re-registered.
- Purpose. The group's purpose is stated in the registration as being to 'promote London in the interests of all its people, places and businesses as a global city and powerhouse of the economy'
- Membership. Group has grown steadily to 62 members, 45 MPs and 17 Peers.
- Twitter. Group also has a twitter account <https://twitter.com/APPGforLondon> - as of 12 July 2016, the account has built up to 298 followers.
- Website. APPG Group also has a website – see www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/appg
- Reference Group. We have also set up a 'reference group' comprised of organisations who are interested in the work of the APPG. We have held two meetings with the group to keep them abreast of the group's work and also feed in ideas and suggestions they may have and are planning another one shortly. The groups are: London First, Centre for London, London Chamber

of Commerce, City of London, London Society's APPG on London's Planning and Built Environment, London Fire Brigade, Port of Tilbury, National Housing Federation, Trust for London, London Communications Agency and London Funders. We have also had interest recently from the Federation of Small Businesses and CPRE.

4. Policy themes and Group meetings to date.

At the AGM on 28 May 2015, the officers agreed four policy themes for the year 2015-6. These were:

- City devolution, including fiscal, skills, health, employment.
- Housing
- Public financing, in particular business rates review and the CSR and
- Infrastructure, including transport and connectivity

First meeting: City devolution, 8 July 2015.

Speakers were Mayor Jules Pipe, Chair of London Councils and Mayor of Hackney and Sir Eddie Lister, Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning. The group discussed both London's and the government's plans for devolution to the capital. This was set in the context that the Cities and Local Government Devolution was making its way through the House of Lords at the time.

Second Meeting: Housing, 9 September 2015.

Speakers were Lord Bob Kerslake, Mayor Sir Steve Bullock, Cllr Ravi Govindia and Richard Blakeway. With the Housing Bill about to start its Parliamentary progress at the time, there was a lot of interest and concern. Outcome - following the meeting, Bob Neill wrote to Greg Clark MP to voice the groups concerns. Several London MPs were vocal in the debates on the Bill in the Commons and Lord Kerslake led several attempts to amend the Bill in the Lords.

Third meeting: Resourcing London, 20 January 2016.

This focussed on the financial impact on London's councils of the CSR, the local government settlement and the devolution of business rates. Speakers were Guy Ware, London Councils and Jeremy Skinner, GLA. They outlined the budgetary challenges and opportunities facing London and the boroughs. Outcome – the figures from these presentations fed into meetings London MPs had with their councils.

Fourth meeting: Educational funding in London, 2 March 2016.

This focussed on the proposed changes to education funding as part of the consultation on a new National Funding Formula. Speakers included a school principal, borough director of children's services and a representative of the London Enterprise panel. Outcome - following the meeting, the APPG Co-Chairs wrote to the minister and there was some good media coverage. A successful debate was also held in the House of Commons and the minister promised to meet APPG officers on this issue.

Fifth meeting: Digital connectivity, 13 April 2016.

This focussed on connectivity for residents and businesses. Speakers included Malcom Corbett, CEO – INCA, Patrick Dubeck of the GLA, Russ Shaw, Founder - Tech London Advocates and Ed Vaizey, Minister of State for the digital economy at BIS (could not make it). A large and lively meeting. Outcome – the group Co-Chairs wrote to the minister after the meeting setting out the main issues and some questions. There was also some good media coverage on this in the MJ and Evening Standard.

Sixth meeting: Reference Group , 11 May 2016.

Members of the Reference Group met with Bob Neill and Steve Reed to discuss the APPG and its work. A number of useful suggestions came out of this for the future – see the ideas for future meetings above.

Seventh meeting: Air Quality, 28 June 2016.

Speakers included Cllr Julian Bell, Chair of London Councils TEC, Dr Gary Fuller & Poppy Lyle of the GLA. This was a well-attended meeting with a number of questions coming from this. The group officers will be contacting ministers regarding these concerns and agreeing ways to take this issue forward.

Other meetings.

There have been other meetings during the year, either with the secretariat and Co-Chairs or officers to manage the business and plan the future meetings. There was also a half year review by officers held in January 2016. During the year TfL also offered a visit to see the works at Bond Street on Crossrail, but there were not sufficient numbers of members available in order to make it happen.