

Midlands Engine APPG Energy Subgroup

Tuesday 8 December 2020, 16:00-17:00

Attendees:

Lord Ravensdale (Chair)
Darren Henry MP
Andrew Bridgen MP
Karl McCartney MP
Philip Dunne MP
Martin Vickers MP
Mark Pawsey MP
Baroness Burt of Solihull

Apologies:

Jo Gideon MP
Kate Griffiths MP
Pauline Latham MP
Lord Taylor of Holbeach
Jonathan Gullis MP

Guests:

Rachael Greenwood, Midlands Engine Director
Peter Ware, Head of Government Sector, Browne Jacobson LLP
Adrian Smith, Nottinghamshire County Council Deputy CEO
Professor Martin Freer, Energy Research Accelerator Director
Secretariat: Tom Day, Midlands Engine

Minutes:

- 1) Welcome and Introduction: Lord Ravensdale
 - a. Lord Ravensdale welcomed parliamentarians and set out the objectives of the session, and invited Midlands Engine APPG Chair Darren Henry MP to give some background on the APPG and its work so far.
 - b. Lord Ravensdale introduced the guests who had been invited to present to the subgroup.
- 2) Midlands Engine Green Growth Action Plan: Rachael Greenwood & Peter Ware
 - a. Rachael Greenwood (Midlands Engine Director) summarised the Midlands Engine's work in the energy sector, and set out the scale of the opportunity in the sector along with evidence from the Midlands Engine Observatory on the regional strengths of the Midlands Engine.
 - b. Peter Ware (Head of Government Sector, Browne Jacobson LLP) gave a summary of the Midlands Engine Green Growth Conversation, leading to an Action Plan in early spring 2021.

- 3) East Midlands Development Corporation: Adrian Smith
 - a. Adrian Smith (Deputy CEO, Nottinghamshire County Council) outlined the East Midlands Development Corporation's plans for transformational economic growth, and having low carbon and green growth at the heart of the plans.
- 4) Energy Research Accelerator: Professor Martin Freer
 - a. Professor Martin Freer (Director, Energy Research Accelerator (ERA)) presented ERA's work in the region so far, and their plans for future work in this sector.
- 5) Discussion of presentations: Lord Ravensdale
 - a. Lord Ravensdale invited questions and clarifications from parliamentarians on the presentations received.
 - b. Philip Dunne MP discussed mapping regional energy projects and programmes and the limitations on business due to energy issues.
 - c. Mark Pawsey MP commented on the effects of transitioning to a green economy and the importance of getting power to the right places. Professor Freer responded on the importance of regional planning in getting this right.
 - d. Darren Henry MP commented on renewable energy sources and the opportunities for generation in the Midlands.
- 6) Next meeting and intermediate actions
 - a. The parliamentarians assembled agreed that there was a need for a future Midlands Engine APPG Energy subgroup meeting to align with the outputs of the Midlands Engine Energy Action Plan in early spring 2021.
 - b. Lord Ravensdale also highlighted opportunities for raising regional strengths in energy through parliamentary questions, in particular BEIS OPQs on Tuesday 15th December and a question in the House of Lords on Monday 14th December.
- 7) Meeting closed at 17:00